TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH : THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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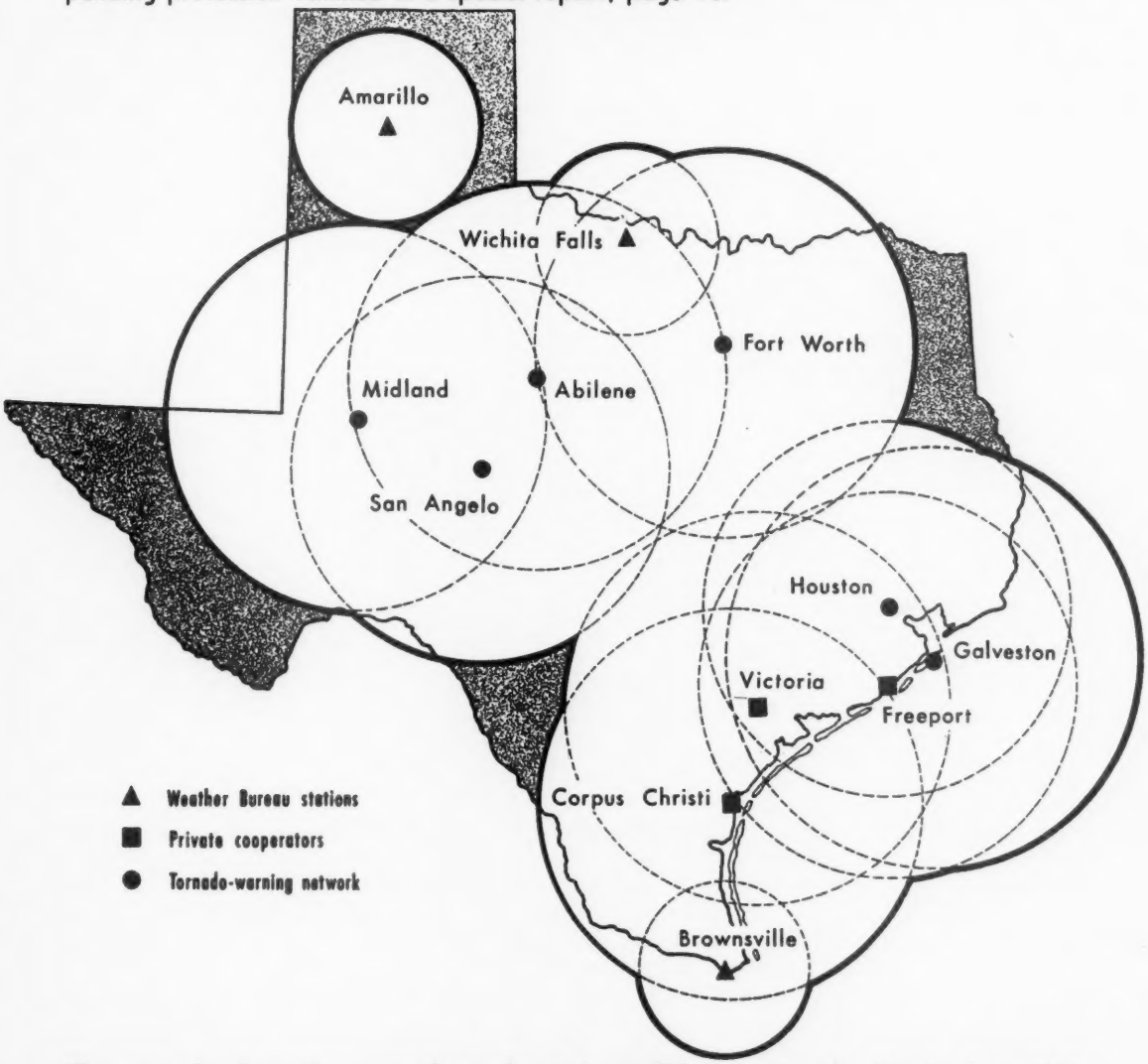
Weather—and the Texas economy

Capricious but no longer unpredictable, Texas weather is the business of a new and expanding profession outlined in a special report, page 15.



The eyes of a dozen Texas weather-radar stations will be scanning the skies by June 1954. The Texas network is unique in the vast area it will cover and in the degree of cooperation among government and private agencies. Each circle on the map above represents a conservative estimate of the station's range.

The Business Situation in Texas

Business activity in Texas showed an accelerated rate of decline during January, bringing the index of business activity compiled by the Bureau of Business Research to 136% of the 1947–49 base. This represented a decline of 9% from the peak of 150 reached a year ago and was the lowest point for the index since August 1952. The January index was 4% below the level of the preceding month, after allowance for normal seasonal variation. The sharply accelerated rate of decline evident in the January figures brings the picture in Texas rather closely in line with the situation for the rest of the country. Up until this time there has been a tendency for business in Texas to hold up better than for the country as a whole.

INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMPONENT SERIES

(adjusted for seasonal variation, 1947–49–=100)

Indexes	Weight	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Percent change
INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY (COMPOSITE)	100.0	136*	142*	— 4
Total electric power consumption	3.0	208	216	— 4
Crude runs to stills	3.9	124	118	+ 5
Crude petroleum production	8.1	119	120	— 1
Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes	9.4	99*	98*	+ 1
Miscellaneous freight carloadings	10.0	95	86	+ 10
Industrial electric power consumption	14.6	226	232	— 3
Retail sales, adjusted for price changes	51.0	124*	134*	— 8

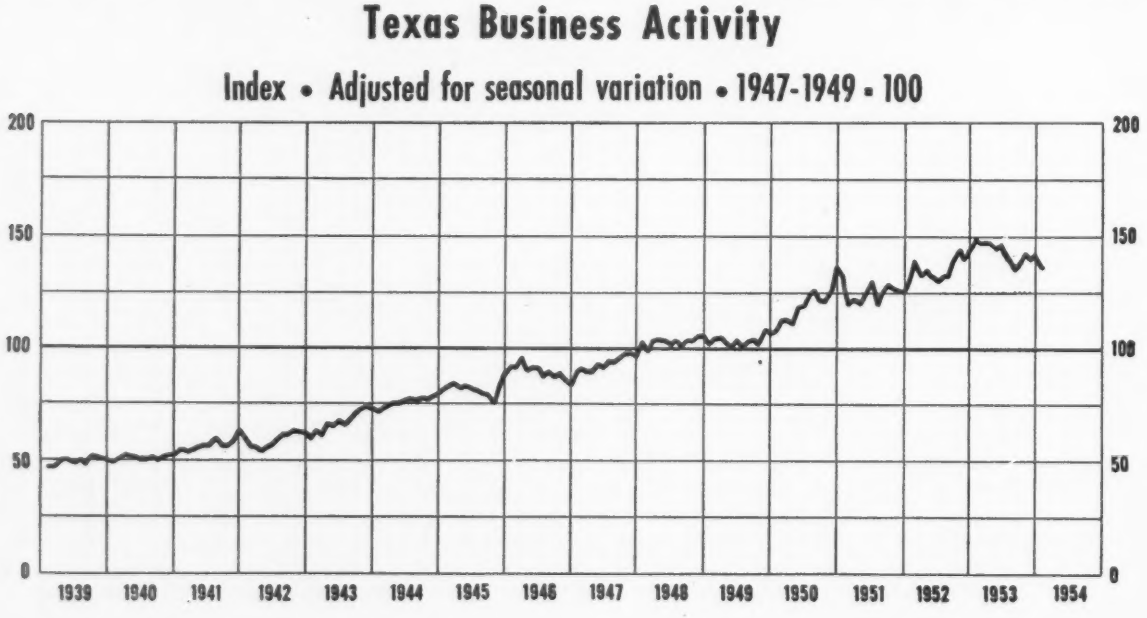
*Preliminary.

The index of industrial production published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve has declined approximately 9% from the peak reached in 1953. This is about the same rate of decline shown in the figures for Texas; the somewhat later drop in Texas is the only difference between the two series. While the decline has not been precipitous, it has been steady, and there are no signs that it has reached an end. The belief that a weakness in durable-goods industries would be the chief cause of the decline in production has not been entirely true. The decline in durable-goods manufacture has been approximately 11%, but for nondurables it has been nearly 9%. In other words, the decline in manufacturing activity has been fairly widespread.

The rate of steel operations has been about 75% of capacity, and scrap steel prices have shown considerable weakness. In the days before detailed data were available on manufacturing, steel production and scrap steel prices were used as measures of industrial activity. This industry is still a significant barometer of business conditions, and the weakness it displays should be taken seriously as a measure of the state of business.

The individual components of the index of business activity did not move with complete unanimity, but most of the series showed a decline. Three series with a total weight of 23.3% registered increases from December, with all the other components showing a decrease. Retail sales, which received more than half of the weight, decreased 8%. The table at left gives the detailed analysis of the changes in the different series entering into the composite index.

In comparison with a year ago the majority of the series in the index of business registered a decline. Industrial power consumption increased one point on the index, which represented less than one-half of one percent, and total electric power consumption increased 4% over a year ago. All of the remaining components were below the peak established in January 1953. Retail sales adjusted for changes in prices were down 15%. The value of building permits, also adjusted for price changes, was



down 17%. Crude petroleum production declined 9% and crude runs to stills 7%. Miscellaneous freight carloadings also declined 7%.

Probably the most significant change registered in Texas business barometers during January was the severe drop in retail trade. In spite of the gradual decline in retail sales during 1953, the year averaged better than 1952, and the December level of the index was only slightly more than 1% under the average for the year. The sharp decline in January, however, pushed the index to the lowest point since March 1952. January 1953 sales were the highest on record, and January 1954 was 15% below that record level.

Both durable-goods sales and nondurable-goods sales declined during the past year, with considerably more loss in the durable-goods group than in nondurable goods. However, sales of nondurable-goods stores were hit particularly hard in January; after adjustment for seasonal variation they declined 10%, compared with a decline of only 4% for durable-goods stores. The greater drop in sales of durable-goods stores during 1953 was responsible for the more drastic decline over the period of a year, 20% compared to 12% decline in sales of nondurable-goods stores.

Retail sales during January held up better in other sections of the United States than in Texas. Early estimates indicate that after adjustment for seasonal variation, January sales may be only about 1% below December for the country as a whole. The decline from a year ago appears to be less for the whole country than in Texas. However, it is apparent that consumers everywhere are beginning to feel the effect of the slowing down in business. The increasing volume of unemployment in many areas will inevitably bring about a decline in consumer buying.

The fact that consumer spending in general has held up better than factory production is not unusual. With inventories at an all-time high, it is to be expected that merchants will reduce their buying from manufacturers before any slowing of consumer buying can be seen. Ever since last summer businessmen have realized that it was important to reduce the volume of goods in inventories. It has been true that the ratio of stocks to sales has not been out of line with sound merchandising, but it was also evident that it was no longer possible for inventories to continue growing as they have been since the summer of 1952. This has been particularly true of inventories of durable goods.

In the closing months of 1953 businessmen tried to work off some of the stocks of goods. In many lines they were reasonably successful, but as stocks have been reduced, there has been a tendency for sales also to slip, with the result that improvement in the ratio of stocks to sales has been slight. The reduction in orders for new merchandise has been responsible for the slowing down of factory production, even before any appreciable reduction in retail sales occurred. There is serious danger that any pronounced reduction in consumer demand will bring on a greatly accelerated downward slide in new orders for manufactured goods. It is in this manner that a sharp recession in business activity is generated, tending to become cumulatively more severe.

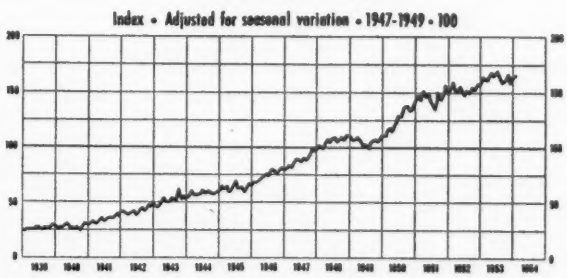
Although a recession due to inventory reduction can be very sharp, it usually does not require much time to bring corrective forces into play. A more serious situation develops if the slowing down of business brings on a reduction in commitments of businessmen for capital expansion. The rate of growth of business in the United States since the end of World War II has been phenomenal. If any appreciable slowing down in the rate of expansion should take place, it would have far-reaching effects on the level of business operations. The expansion of all kinds of physical plants in Texas has continued practically unabated since the war, and this factor more than any other has accounted for the high level of business activity in the state during these years. In surveying the current situation in Texas business, it is extremely important to weigh the prospects for this type of business investment.

The index of building authorized in Texas measures one important segment of the production of capital goods in the state. During 1953 the volume of new building was only slightly below the level of 1952, and January registered an increase of 1% over December. The growing population and the increasing standard of living will continue to require the expansion of many kinds of facilities such as schools, churches, hospitals, roads, and other public works.

There is no indication at the present time that the current recession in business activity is more than an inventory-generated decline which may be expected to correct itself when the swollen stocks of goods have been moved into the hands of consumers. The more serious decline in activity that accompanies a sharp curtailment of capital goods formation does not appear to be present in the current situation. This appears to be particularly true in Texas, which has been growing faster than the country as a whole.

In spite of the fact that the volume of production has been declining, there has been no concomitant decline in prices. The wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics registered an increase between December and January, and no general price weakness has appeared. Wholesale prices have been declining very slowly since early in 1951, but this decline has slowed down in recent months.

Bank Debits in Texas



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JOHN R. STOCKTON

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Texas Business Activity

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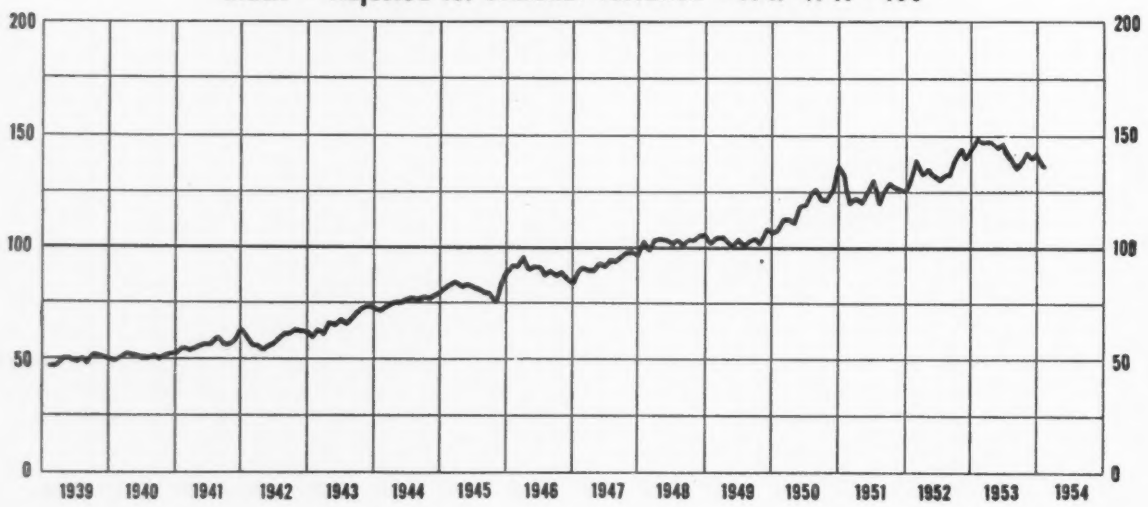

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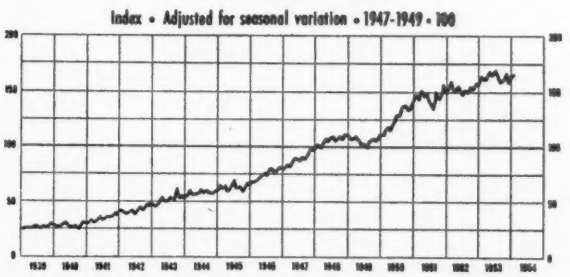

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William R. Spriegel ..... Dean

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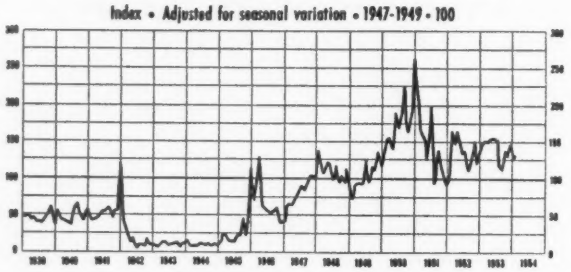
CONSTRUCTION

Additions, alterations, and repairs show increase. The value of building permits issued in Texas in January was up 17% from December. The most significant change was an 85% rise in additions, alterations, and repairs. All major categories of building increased, although new construction (excluding additions, alterations, and repairs) was up slightly less (10%) than the anticipated seasonal change of +12%. New nonresidential and residential building increased 10 and 9%, respectively.

The number of new urban dwelling units authorized in Texas during January (3,453) was above the December rate (3,098) but remained substantially below the January 1953 total (4,794). In the near future the government is expected to lower down payments and provide longer time periods to repay federal housing loans. The president's economic report says housing output "may be expected to continue at a level close to that of 1953."

Value of Urban Building Authorized in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1947-1949 • 100



According to the Texas Employment Commission, there has been only a relatively small drop in construction employment in Texas in the past few months. The outlook in the industry appears to be good. Building for industrial and commercial purposes has taken the lead from residential construction. In addition, some sizable government projects are now being started, and schools, churches, and hospitals are furnishing more construction jobs.

National expenditures for new construction declined seasonally in January to $2.4 billion from $2.7 billion in December. Private industrial building, after remaining steady for the four previous months, rose slightly, mainly reflecting activity on large projects begun late in 1953; most other major categories showed the decline that is usual for January. Total private outlays ($1,713 million) were 5% above January 1952; total public expenditures ($712 million) were 3% lower.

Sales of Texas lumber, building material, and hardware dealers declined by 13% from December to January, dropping them to a level 24% below those of January 1953.

Dwelling unit starts gain slightly. The value of new, urban dwelling units authorized in Texas increased 13% from December to January. The entire climb is attributable to single-family houses which increased 22%. Multiple-family housing partially offset this gain with an overall decrease of 60%.

Nonhousekeeping-residential building declined sharply from December by 57%. This occurrence was a result of a 76% decline in construction of tourist cabins which was partly compensated for by a small (dollarwise) gain in

other nonhousekeeping-residential building of 19%. No hotel starts were reported in either December or January.

Nonresidential building increased overall by 10% from December to January, in spite of the fact that eight out of the fourteen types of nonresidential building showed declines. The most important changes (dollarwise) in bringing about the higher total value in January were the 56% rise in value of stores and other mercantile buildings authorized and the 137% increase in starts of office and bank buildings. Substantial decreases occurred in the classifications of institutional buildings, —66%; public works and utilities, —60%; and other nonresidential building, —38%.

Additions, alterations, and repairs to residential-housekeeping buildings increased by an insignificant 11% in January above December. Most of the overall 85% increase in value of additions, alterations, and repairs was a result of the mammoth 170% increase in the classification of other building (i.e., nonresidential building).

Building rose in all city-size classes except in the cities with 50,000 to 100,000 population, which dropped 19% on the average. The largest relative increase was marked up by cities with less than 25,000 people, +32%; followed by cities over 100,000, +29%; and cities between 25,000 and 50,000 population, +17%.

The level of building this January was somewhat below that of January 1953. In fact, of the 23 types of building classification used by the Bureau of Business Research, all but seven have experienced a lower rate of activity so far this year. These seven types of building which started the new year above the levels of January 1953 may give some clue to the stronger sources of building activity in 1954. They are: apartment building, other nonhousekeeping-residential building, churches, service stations, stores and other mercantile building, other nonresidential building, and additions, alterations, and repairs to nonresidential and nonhousekeeping residential building.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Classification	Value (thousands of dollars)			Percent change	
	Jan 1954*	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
CONSTRUCTION CLASS					
ALL PERMITS	51,899	44,331	59,155	— 12	+ 17
New construction	48,916	40,010	53,037	— 17	+ 10
Residential	26,524	24,269	35,585	— 25	+ 9
Housekeeping	25,981	22,994	33,917	— 23	+ 13
Single family	24,929	20,370	32,153	— 22	+ 22
Multiple family	1,052	2,624	1,764	— 40	— 60
Nonhousekeeping	543	1,275	1,668	— 67	— 57
Nonresidential	17,392	15,741	17,452	x	+ 10
Additions, alterations, and repairs	7,983	4,321	6,118	+ 30	+ 85
CITY-SIZE GROUP (1940)					
ALL PERMITS	51,899	44,331	59,155	— 12	+ 17
Over 100,000	25,962	20,163	26,534	— 2	+ 29
50,000 to 100,000	8,494	10,533	11,694	— 27	— 19
25,000 to 50,000	3,946	3,381	4,331	— 9	+ 17
Under 25,000	13,497	10,254	16,596	— 19	+ 32

Only building for which permits were issued within the incorporated area of the city is included. Federal contracts are excluded.

*Preliminary.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

Source: Dodge Statistical Research Service

Type of construction	Value (thous of dols)			Percent change	
	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
ALL CONSTRUCTION	85,815	104,755	88,081	— 3	— 18
NEW BUILDINGS	71,391	70,788	72,991	— 2	+ 1
Residential buildings	47,676	24,858	46,114	+ 3	+ 92
Nonresidential buildings	23,715	45,930	26,877	— 12	— 48
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES	14,414	33,967	15,090	— 4	— 58

The 12% drop in the level of building this year compared to January 1953 can also be explained by changes according to city-size classes. Building showed a decline in all population groups. Changes were as follows: 50,000 to 100,000, —27%; under 25,000, —19%; 25,000 to 50,000, —9%; and over 100,000, —2%.

Contracts awarded in Texas. Contract data included urban and rural areas as well as federal building. The value of construction contracts awarded in Texas during January decreased 18% below December to a level only 3% below January of last year. Residential building was the only category which showed an increase in January either on a month-to-month or year-to-year basis. Residential building was up 92% above December and 3% above January 1953. In the same comparison nonresidential building was down 48 and 12%, respectively. Public works and utilities exhibited much the same pattern as nonresidential building, decreasing somewhat more from December, —58%, and somewhat less from last January, —4%.

The overall decline of 3% in the value of construction contracts awarded in Texas from January 1953 to this January also can be explained by changes in construction according to ownership. The value of contracts awarded for publicly financed building was stable with a decline of less than one-half of one percent and privately financed building dipped 3%. The largest increase occurred in publicly financed residential building, up 98%; private residential building climbed only 1%. Public and private nonresidential building dropped 20 and 7%, respectively, during the same period. The only other category showing an increase was publicly financed public works and utilities which climbed 6% while privately financed public works and utilities dropped 72%.

Permit values for leading cities. Changes in value of building permits issued in the five largest Texas cities from December to January were: Houston, +31%; Dallas, +40%; San Antonio, —15%; Fort Worth, +54%; and Austin, —14%.

Kermit had the largest relative increase in building permits issued during January compared to December, +5,670%; followed by Pampa, +3,212%; Lampasas, +1,363%; Edinburg, +1,337%; and Beeville, +933%.

The city leading the state in per capita value of building permits issued during Jaunary was Irving with $214.04 per person. Other top cities: Dayton, $113.19; West Columbia, $75.24; Arlington, $67.21; and Lampasas, $52.78. Average municipal per capita building in January was $12.41 compared to $11.39 in December.

RICHARD C. HENSHAW, JR.

RETAIL TRADE

With the handicap of one less business day this year, retail sales in January failed to match the peaks of early 1953. Early January featured many heavy clearance sales but little distress selling. Although Texas stores shared the national drop in apparel sales, response to clearance sales of winter coats was sufficiently heavy to encourage buyers to enlarge their earlier ordering plans for spring delivery. Early February sales were reported as topping 1953. Household goods promotions and white-goods sales were reported favorably in many areas. Trade continued sluggish in television and major appliances. Sales promotions in general have appeared more necessary to draw patronage than in late January last year. Exchanges of gift merchandise were lighter than in 1953. Food sales rose slowly, especially through supermarket outlets. December's record used-car sales, based on heavy price reductions, continued strong in many parts of the nation; but automotive sales declined 15% in Texas. Sales of department stores nationally were reported 3% under the high of January 1953; but 76 Texas department stores averaged 10% below. Sales experience varied widely between cities.

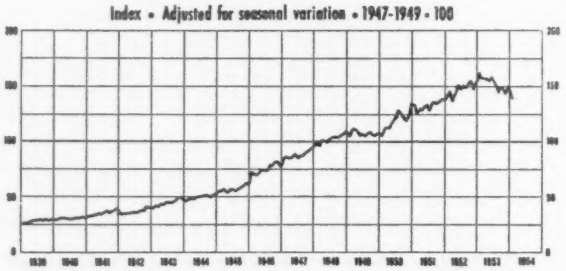
ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Type of store	Sales (mils of dols)	Percent change	
	Jan 1954	Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TOTAL	677.1	— 15	— 28
Durable-goods stores	251.5	— 20	— 13
Nondurable-goods stores	425.6	— 12	— 34

Inventories slow buying. During closing months of 1953, wholesale and retail inventories, especially of hard goods, were trimmed gradually but still had not been reduced by amounts usual at the close of holiday selling.

Retail Sales in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1947-1949 = 100



Inventory reduction continues, but chiefly at manufacturing levels. Current aggressive selling efforts for television and major appliances reflect unliquidated stocks. At the close of January, used-car stocks were reported as averaging 52 days' sales instead of a "normal" 30-day supply.

Buyers at the wholesale markets in early January appeared more cautious than last year but placed good-sized orders for short-term deliveries. The apparel markets were attended more heavily than expected, with buying of children's wear especially active, also sportswear and casuals. Orders slackened in early February as buyers, reassured by greater availability of goods and prompt deliveries, were apparently waiting for price concessions. A tendency was noted toward ordering of more conservative apparel. Traffic was light at the Chicago and Grand Rapids furniture markets, but the cautious buying was expected to equal that of 1953. Shopping for novelties was below last year's demand. Appliances and household goods were weak.

Price stabilizing? For more than a year, average wholesale and retail prices have shown a comparatively high degree of stability. Various prices have weakened, but any general price break was avoided. Food prices in southern cities averaged 0.5 to 1.5% lower than in 1952. In Houston, year-end prices advanced for fruits and vegetables, cereals, and baking products but eased for meats, poultry, fish, and dairy products. The Consumer Price Index at 115% of the 1947–49 average was down 0.1% from a month earlier. Food and medical and personal care rose 0.2 to 0.3%. Apparel was lower, also transportation (the latter, chiefly because of price cuts on new 1953 cars). Recreation was unchanged. Rent rose 5.7% during the year to new record levels. The index as a whole rose in the first two and last two months of 1953 and declined in the other eight months. Retail prices on the whole are expected by many to average about the same in 1954 as in 1953, except for a few commodities such as coffee.

Trade survey in Texas. In Texas, with 2,811 stores reporting and with one less business day than in January 1953, total retail sales fell from December by 28% and from last January by 15%. January 1953 showed a 13%

RETAIL SALES TRENDS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
KIND OF BUSINESS			
DURABLE GOODS			
Automotive stores	266	— 15	— 7
Furniture and household appliance stores	151	— 6	— 32
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	285	— 24	— 13
NONDURABLE GOODS			
Apparel stores	222	— 12	— 50
Drug stores	135	— 9	— 24
Eating and drinking places	104	— 7	— 3
Filling stations	1,019	+ 2	— 14
Florists	38	— 15	— 39
Food stores	240	— 9	— 23
General merchandise stores	189	— 9	— 59
Jewelry stores	34	— 18	— 78
Liquor stores	20	— 9	— 55
Office, store, and school supply dealers	38	— 10	— 6
CITY-SIZE CLASS (1950)			
Over 250,000	1,487	— 13	— 37
100,000 to 250,000	142	— 11	— 41
50,000 to 100,000	231	— 13	— 27
2,500 to 50,000	837	— 11	— 28
Under 2,500	114	— 2	— 19

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Credit ratios*		Collection ratios†	
		Jan 1954	Jan 1953	Jan 1954	Jan 1953
ALL STORES	65	63.5	63.4	42.0	42.7
BY CITIES					
Austin	4	61.3	59.5	51.3	49.5
Dallas	6	70.4	68.5	47.8	50.8
El Paso	3	53.6	57.1	33.4	35.9
Fort Worth	3	58.2	58.1	55.3	42.0
Galveston	5	58.4	56.5	48.2	50.5
Houston	4	65.6	64.6	33.7	33.9
San Antonio	6	58.9	62.2	45.3	44.1
Waco	4	56.9	56.9	48.3	50.2
Others	30	59.4	60.7	43.6	48.2
BY TYPE OF STORE					
Department stores (over $1 million)	19	64.5	64.5	41.5	41.6
Department stores (under $1 million)	17	46.6	45.7	50.1	52.1
Dry goods and apparel stores	5	54.0	55.5	41.7	45.4
Women's specialty shops	15	60.0	60.7	42.6	45.9
Men's clothing stores	9	64.2	61.1	51.4	56.3
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1952)					
Over $3,000,000	19	64.6	64.4	41.3	41.6
$1,500,000 to $3,000,000	6	57.5	59.2	50.5	56.9
$500,000 to $1,500,000	15	58.0	57.1	51.7	54.2
$250,000 to $500,000	10	49.4	46.4	45.5	48.8
Less than $250,000	15	45.8	46.8	45.5	49.6

*Credit sales as a percent of net sales.

†Collections during the month as a percent of accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

gain over January 1952, +18% for durables and +9% for nondurables.

Farm implement dealers (+7%) contributed the only gain over December; all other lines reported losses of 3 to 78%. In the January-to-January comparison, increases of 2% were registered by filling stations and by groceries without meats. All other retail lines had decreases of 1 to 28%. The largest drops were for lumber and building material dealers (—28%), jewelry stores (—18%), women's ready-to-wear stores (—17%), and automotive stores and florists (each —15%).

Reporting by cities, 298 Texas department and apparel stores averaged 55% decreases from December and were 11% below January 1953. Of the 35 cities tabulated, all declined from December by percentages varying between —36 and —69%. Six cities topped January 1953: Brownsville (+10%), Lockhart (+7%), Texas City (+6%), Big Spring (+5%), Wichita Falls (+4%), and Sherman (+2%). Other cities fell below a year earlier by —2 to —25%.

Of 31 cities reporting enough retailers of various types to be listed individually all reported decreases from December: —17 to —51%. In the January-to-January comparison increases were reported by Wichita Falls (+4%) and Plainview (+1%). Other small decreases were in Denison (—1%), San Angelo (—3%), Waco (—5%), and Houston (—8%).

Secondary trade indicators. Advertising linage in 29 Texas newspapers as a group declined 2% from December and 1% from last year. Only one of the 29 papers topped December, but 13 bettered January 1953. Postal receipts for 121 Texas cities dropped from December levels by 40% but were ahead of January 1953 by 3%. Of the 121 cities, 67 topped January 1953 although all but one dropped below December.

Business prospects reassuring. Business in 1954 will probably remain moderately below the peaks of early 1953. Income sources are not seriously shrunken, and customer buying psychology is complacent. Savings are immense. The use of credit is expected by many to remain at the levels of 1953 or above.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TOTAL	$5,672,566	$9,464,209	$5,556,529	+ 2	— 40
Alice	8,295	19,961	10,800	— 23	— 58
Arlington	10,429	26,374	13,072	— 20	— 60
Bastrop	1,829	3,414	2,006	— 9	— 46
Bay City	8,965	14,804	7,873	+ 14	— 39
Belton	5,018	9,222	4,805	+ 4	— 46
Brady	4,118	7,911	4,409	— 7	— 48
Brownfield	6,156	10,674	6,754	— 9	— 42
Cameron	7,234	9,018	6,813	+ 6	— 20
Childress	4,500	8,287	5,182	— 13	— 46
Cisco	4,717	7,057	4,213	+ 12	— 33
Cleburne	12,894	19,736	11,683	+ 10	— 35
Coleman	5,493	9,474	4,949	+ 11	— 42
Corsicana	16,536	40,322	14,591	+ 13	— 59
Crystal City	3,106	4,362	2,852	+ 9	— 29
Cuero	5,365	9,083	4,445	+ 21	— 41
El Campo	7,706	12,557	6,106	+ 26	— 39
Gainesville	9,798	16,403	8,992	+ 9	— 40
Gatesville	4,984	6,210	5,446	— 8	— 20
Giddings	2,152	5,263	2,585	— 17	— 59
Gilmer	4,998	6,837	4,746	+ 5	— 27
Graham	4,956	11,053	5,471	— 9	— 55
Granbury	2,027	3,096	1,376	+ 47	— 35
Grand Prairie	13,907	26,233	9,497	+ 46	— 47
Hillsboro	5,411	10,174	5,328	+ 2	— 47
Huntsville	6,790	9,644	6,951	— 2	— 30
Jacksonville	8,668	17,940	10,203	— 15	— 52
Jasper	4,087	8,026	3,587	+ 14	— 49
Kenedy	2,934	5,842	3,335	— 12	— 50
Kermit	5,282	9,228	5,708	— 7	— 43
Kerrville	9,192	16,374	8,056	+ 14	— 44
Kingsville	10,914	21,523	10,926	x	— 49
Kirbyville	3,969	3,456	.....	.....	+ 15
La Grange	2,962	7,066	3,451	— 14	— 58
Littlefield	5,018	11,149	4,927	+ 2	— 55
Luling	2,643	5,296	2,437	+ 8	— 50
McCamey	2,443	4,280	3,159	— 23	— 43
Marlin	4,988	10,014	5,980	— 17	— 50
Mission	5,259	9,998	6,381	— 18	— 47
Monahans	5,806	9,594	5,875	— 1	— 39
Navasota	3,644	7,401	4,414	— 17	— 51
Pasadena	15,468	33,239	12,894	+ 20	— 53
Pecos	5,943	16,390	8,339	— 29	— 64
Pittsburg	2,945	4,525	2,477	+ 19	— 35
Sulphur Springs	5,008	10,287	6,169	— 19	— 51
Taft	2,109	5,161	2,095	+ 1	— 59
Terrell	5,652	12,067	5,396	+ 5	— 53
Uvalde	6,111	9,848	7,232	— 16	— 38
Vernon	7,712	19,790	9,380	— 18	— 61
Victoria	21,066	36,744	19,517	+ 8	— 43
Weatherford	6,908	14,677	7,591	— 9	— 53
Yoakum	8,858	12,910	8,027	+ 10	— 31

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditions," but excludes cities which have incomplete data.

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The gathering storm. About $25 million in refunds is being distributed among 132 natural gas pipeline companies as the result of the U. S. Supreme Court decision that put an end to the Texas "gathering tax." Since the ill-fated tax bill became Texas law in 1951, the pipeline companies have been making their payments under protest. Now the funds, held meanwhile in escrow by the state, are being redistributed among the firms, rather than being applied, as indicated, to state expenses.

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION

Use	Consumption (thous kw-hrs) Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TOTAL	1,202,525	1,211,424	1,156,815	+ 4	— 1
Commercial	187,018	200,776	188,356	— 1	— 7
Industrial	588,812	605,112	587,017	x	— 3
Residential	217,873	194,247	186,320	+ 17	+ 12
Other	208,822	211,289	195,122	+ 7	— 1

Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

The tax, collected at the rate of 0.45 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas, was levied on every "person" engaged in gathering gas. Pipeline companies that took the question before the highest court argued that they were not primarily gas producers of "gatherers" but merely bought the gas from other companies and shipped it in interstate commerce. The unanimous Supreme Court decision to outlaw the tax was based on the opinion that the state was, in effect, erecting an unconstitutional customs barrier to interstate commerce.

With the momentous case finally settled, Texas tax officials still faced a thorny problem. El Paso Natural Gas Company and several others had paid more than $6.2 million in gathering tax fees—and without protest. Much of this money has already been spent by the state, and it will apparently be impossible to refund it without special legislation.

The special session of the Texas legislature, expected to be called in mid-March, will probably have to decide whether and how a refund can be made in this unexampled situation. Meanwhile the Lone Star Gas Company announced in Dallas that it would issue substantial refunds to some 4,500 industrial customers who represent about 70% of Lone Star's business.

The legislative problem of refunding already-spent money, however, will probably be secondary to the question of how to obtain new state revenue to replace the lost potential of the gathering tax.

The State Attorney General's Office, examining possible new sources, has recommended that the production tax on residue gas be increased as a conservation measure. This method of gas taxation, believed to be legally valid under a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, would require

PETROLEUM AND GAS ACTIVITY

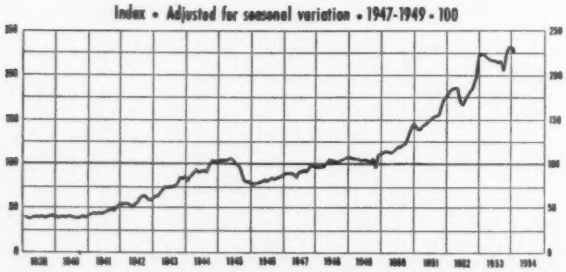
Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts and Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Product	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
CARBON BLACK PRODUCED (value in thous of dols)	2,518	1,712	3,394	— 26	+ 47
CRUDE OIL					
Value (thous of dols)	209,571	218,560	233,209	— 10	— 4
Production (thous of bbls)	73,638	76,841	90,287	— 19	— 4
Runs to stills	59,113	59,227	62,342	— 5	x
NATURAL AND CASINGHEAD GAS PRODUCED (value in thous of dols)	31,165	36,535	27,806	+ 12	— 15
SULFUR RECOVERED (long tons)	677	0	936	— 28	.....

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

Industrial Electric Power Use in Texas

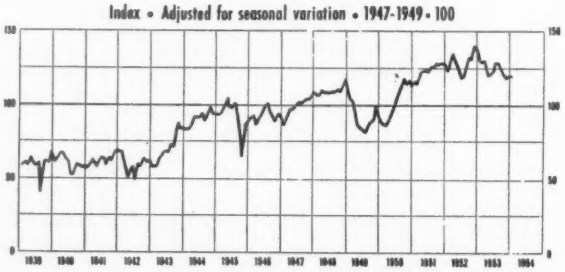
Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1947-1949 • 100



January industrial activity in Texas, as measured by industrial use of electric power, dropped 3% from the preceding month. The January level of 226 shown on the index chart above reflects the national slackening of industrial output. During the first month of the year, only residential consumption of electricity was higher in Texas. All other classes of consumption declined, with the sharpest break in commercial use, —7% from December to January.

Crude Oil Production

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1947-1949 • 100



Texas crude production during January was set at a daily allowable of 2,887,390 barrels. Then, sagging market demand prompted the Railroad Commission of Texas to lower the quota to 2,811,676 barrels a day for February. During March crude flow will be up again by nearly 160,000 barrels a day. The March allowable: 2,982,416 barrels plus a normal gain of 10,000 barrels a week from new wells.

REFINERY STOCKS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Area and product	Stocks (thousands of barrels) Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
UNITED STATES					
Gasoline	170,421	160,075	149,443	+ 14	+ 6
Distillate	83,936	113,582	82,148	+ 2	— 26
Residual	46,433	49,435	46,356	x	— 6
Kerosene	22,093	29,081	23,292	— 5	— 24
TEXAS					
Gasoline	30,874	29,204	26,437	+ 17	+ 6
Distillate	10,797	14,749	9,611	+ 12	— 27
Residual	6,953	7,609	7,611	— 9	— 9
Kerosene	2,575	2,988	2,683	— 4	— 14

Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of the month.
xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Region	January 1954* Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	1953 All wells
TEXAS	750	67	523	1,340	1,151
North Central	281	0	209	490	383
West	230	2	95	327	274
Panhandle	34	23	9	66	51
East	18	10	26	54	52
Gulf Coast	100	16	99	215	186
Southwest	87	16	85	188	205

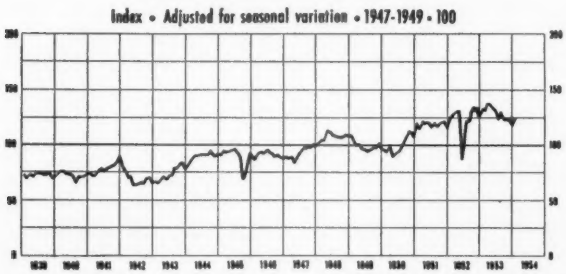
*For four weeks ending January 30, 1954.

that a producer of gas pass the gas production tax on to the purchaser. The new production tax would amount to 1.5 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, to be paid by the purchaser (ordinarily a pipeline company) if the wellhead price of the gas were less than 10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet; otherwise the producers would be required to pay. Texas natural gas production is already subject to a tax of about seven cents per 1,000 cubic feet, paid mainly by producers and landowners. The newly proposed tax, like the gathering tax, would be intended as a tax on the distributors and consumers.

While the Federal Power Commission remained on the sidelines in the gathering tax dispute, viewing it as a state affair, the case was obviously meaningful to FPC. The commission is now preparing a case to determine whether sales of gas to interstate pipline companies by independent Texas producers are subject to federal control. In the case under examination, Phillips Petroleum Company has pressed for a Supreme Court hearing in an effort to establish federal regulation in this area of commerce. The FPC, on the other hand, has opposed federal regulation of a matter they consider to be subject to state authority.

ROBERT H. RYAN

Crude Oil Runs to Stills in Texas



The index of Texas oil refining activity moved upward to reach a January level of 124, highest point registered since last August. Although the actual refinery runs declined nominally (0.2%) during January, the month is normally below December in the yearly pattern. After seasonal adjustment, the index was up 5% from December but was sill significantly short of the 133 level registered in January 1953, the highest January on record.

RAIL SHIPMENTS ORIGINATING IN TEXAS IN 1953

Source: Railroad Commission of Texas

Commodity group	Tonnage
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	7,575,987
ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS	893,352
MINERAL PRODUCTS	20,755,652
Coal and coke	273,479
Ores and concentrates*	1,140,057
Industrial sand	202,177
Gravel and sand*	8,704,316
Stone and rock, broken and ground	2,280,737
Dolomite; rough and finished stone	508,359
Crude petroleum	1,161,686
Asphalt	329,526
Salt	169,005
Sulfur	3,730,610
Products of mines*	2,255,750
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	3,960,013
Logs, posts, fuel, and railroad ties	816,127
Pulpwood	2,517,054
Lumber, shingles, and lath	509,868
Boxing, crating, cooperage, and plywood	45,479
Products of forests*	71,485
MANUFACTURERS AND MISCELLANEOUS	24,159,989
Gasoline	1,512,504
Petroleum fuel, refined*	6,539,813
Fertilizers*	340,217
Metals and alloys	600,056
Iron and steel pipe and fittings	390,697
Other iron and steel	1,879,799
Automobiles, aircraft, and parts	159,775
Natural and portland cement*	2,787,189
Clay products, artificial stone	479,932
Paper, paperboard, and printing	321,606
Liquors, wine and beverages*	327,629
Syrup, molasses, sugar, and candy	662,683
Canned and packaged foods*	278,750
Manufactures and miscellaneous*	7,879,339

*Not elsewhere specified.

AGRICULTURE

In late February, as the first signs of approaching spring come to Texas, farmers' and ranchers' hopes for prosperity in the new season are tempered with pessimism in some phases of the agricultural scene—and generally for good reason.

Good wheat crop possible. In the wheat-producing areas of Texas, farmers continue to hope for the best harvest in several years. But their optimistic outlooks are fraught with chance, depending on rains that must fall during the months ahead. Surface moisture, which approached a level of serious deficiency in February, must be replenished if a good harvest is to be made.

In some sectors the lack of moisture, coupled with the effects of hard freezes and statewide dust storms, has brought growth to a standstill. Few fields have an abundance of top growth.

But even if timely rains reward the wheat farmers' optimism, all will not be well. A serious shortage of storage space would greet a bumper crop, particularly if exports remained low (there is no prospect of their doing otherwise) and no other change in the demand situation comes about. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, however, has been working to relieve the situation by encouraging elevator men to construct more storage facilities under a guaranteed storage plan. Then, of course, there always is the possibility of more farm storage. But wheat men generally oppose this practice because of the high cost of handling, damage by insects and rodents, and the danger of the grain going out of condition.

Rainfall key to livestock hopes. Hopes of livestock raisers for the months ahead likewise hinge on rainfall. In the western counties where last year's drouth toll was heaviest, ranges remain dry. Benefits derived from the rains of last fall have long since been exhausted. Supplemental feeding has been heavy throughout the region. As a result of the general shortage of winter grazing, movements of livestock to market have been heavy.

FARM CASH INCOME

Commodity	Value (thous of dols) Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TEXAS	$138,740	$198,449	$140,559	— 1	— 30
Cotton	61,103	90,204	53,550	+ 14	— 32
Cottonseed	1,286	13,991	1,934	— 34	— 91
Wheat	3,278	1,616	5,410	— 41	+103
Oats	530	407	338	+ 57	+ 30
Corn	700	1,354	983	— 29	— 48
Grain sorghum	4,501	8,616	2,622	+ 72	— 48
Peanuts	1,446	2,736	690	+110	— 47
Rice	0	2,573	0	0	—100
Cattle	18,499	15,390	19,735	— 6	+ 20
Calves	6,280	7,194	8,369	— 25	— 13
Hogs	6,685	6,526	9,359	— 29	+ 2
Sheep and lambs	1,035	1,329	951	+ 9	— 22
Wool	256	1,274	239	+ 7	— 80
Mohair	106	1,656	0	....	— 94
Poultry	3,817	3,751	4,536	— 16	— 56
Eggs	6,417	7,280	7,195	— 11	— 12
Milk and milk products	14,330	14,706	17,568	— 18	— 8
Fruit and vegetables	8,472	12,846	7,080	+ 20	— 34

Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income of the index shown on page 24.

In mild contrast, livestock conditions in the eastern half of the state range from fair to good. Here, warm winter weather and timely moisture have combined to improve pastures.

Increased livestock population forecast. In spite of the disastrous price-cost squeeze which plagued livestock raisers throughout 1953, the livestock population for the coming year is expected to increase, according to USDA estimates. New spring calves are expected to establish an all-time record, topping last year's total by one percent. A 5 to 10% increase in pig farrowings is anticipated, in reverse of the downward tendency that has been prevalent over recent years. According to the federal agency, only sheep and lambs will decline in number, and this should tend to keep 1954 mutton prices in line with those for last year.

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	Jan 1954	Dec 1954	Jan 1953	Percent change Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	3,137	2,109	2,209	+ 42	+ 49
Cattle	2,433	1,427	1,694	+ 44	+ 70
Calves	294	359	326	— 10	— 18
Hogs	6	15	13	— 54	— 60
Sheep	404	308	176	+129	+ 31
INTERSTATE	2,837	1,823	2,010	+ 41	+ 56
Cattle	2,217	1,200	1,528	+ 45	+ 85
Calves	249	325	301	— 17	— 23
Hogs	3	0	13	— 77	....
Sheep	368	298	168	+119	+ 23
INTRASTATE	300	286	212	+ 42	+ 5
Cattle	216	227	166	+ 30	— 5
Calves	45	34	25	+ 80	+ 32
Hogs	3	15	13	— 77	— 80
Sheep	36	10	8	+350	+260

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

With overall production being stepped up, then, only increased consumption can be expected to improve materially the lot of the livestock man. But per-capita beef consumption is expected to decrease a bit—from the 1953 all-time high of 75 pounds to about 73 pounds. Pork consumption is forecast at 58 pounds, 14 pounds under the 1952 high. From the producers' point of view, prospects for the year are not altogether encouraging.

Valley agricultural outlook bright. As usual, the Texas center of heavy agricultural activity during the winter months is the Rio Grande Valley. Prospects for the winter vegetable crop of this region are unusually bright. According to the latest USDA estimates the 1954 winter crop will approximate 411,488 tons, about 17% above the total for last year and 32% higher than the 1949–52 average. Increased production is forecast for all crops except beets, spinach, and winter potatoes.

Valley cotton planting got under way sharply on January 20, the beginning of the official planting period designated for pink bollworm control. Although 1954 quotas cut deeply into the total acreage for the area, agricultural experts foresee an increase in production over 1953 levels. The presence of "stand by" water from new irrigation wells, Lake Falcon, and late-1953 drouth-

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Item	January 1954	January 1953	Percent change
TOTAL	6,406	4,649	+ 38
FRUIT	52	63	− 17
Grapefruit	49	34	+ 44
Mixed citrus	3	6	− 50
All other	....	23	−100
VEGETABLES	6,354	4,586	+ 39
Beets	15	18	− 17
Broccoli	87	18	+383
Cabbage	1,148	627	+ 83
Carrots	1,231	798	+ 54
Cauliflower	445	115	+287
Escarole-endive	17	3	+467
Greens	5	3	+ 67
Lettuce	1,030	673	+ 53
Potatoes	11	4	+175
Spinach	325	423	− 23
Turnips & rutas	9	4	+125
Mixed vegetables	2,023	1,827	+ 11
All other	8	73	− 89

breaking rains are cited by the forecasters as supporting evidence. The 1953 drouth-crippled crop reached 267,000 bales; current predictions for the 1954 crop hover around 330,000 bales.

Texas land values decline. Following a nationwide trend, Texas land values declined moderately during 1953. By the end of the year, Texas farm values were 4% under those of a year earlier but still 145% over the 1935–39 average. The decline first became apparent in the spring and summer months and continued on into the fall. A possible indication of coming price changes may be revealed by a recent survey of real estate men and economists over the nation. Of this group only 4% expect land values to increase in 1954; some 40% foresee further price declines; and the remainder believe no change will occur.

Sheep future affected by decreasing wool demand. A nationwide trend that could have an impact on a large part of West Texas is the steady decline in the manufacture and use of woolens. In 1953 the total production of woolens and worsteds dropped 10% from 1952 levels that were far from record breaking. Only about 30 million linear yards of wool apparel fabric were manufactured last year—the lowest output since 1940. Per-capita use of wool was down to less than two pounds; in 1923 almost three pounds were consumed per person. All in all, the declining importance of the sheep may be in progress.

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1947–49=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Index	1954* Feb 9	1954* Feb 2	Jan 1954	Feb 1953
ALL COMMODITIES	110.5	110.6	110.8	109.6
Farm products	98.2	97.8	97.9	97.9
Food	104.7	105.2	106.2	105.2
All others	114.4	114.5	115.5	113.1

*Estimates of the index for the week ending on date given.

TEXAS COTTON ACTIVITY

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Item	Dec 1953	January-December 1953	January-December 1952	Percent change
COTTONSEED (thous of tons)				
Received at mills	328,618	1,710,438	1,481,639	+ 15
Crushed	191,110	1,472,430	1,431,349	+ 3
Stocks	845,342	3,796,370	3,106,670	+ 22
CONSUMPTION (running bales)				
Cotton	11,952	145,006	146,692	− 1
Linters	2,011	29,381	32,058	− 8
SPINDLES (thousands)				
Spindles in place	230	230*	223*	+ 3
Spindles active	222	219*	210*	+ 4
Total spindle hours	89,000†	1,119,000	2,085,000	− 46
Average spindle hours	387	409	395	+ 4

*Annual average.
†For five weeks ending January 1, 1954.

Cotton quotas induce crop experimentation. Texas farmers will be allowed to plant 8,719,178 acres in cotton this year, 1,342,320 more acres than scheduled under the first quotas set in December. The increase tends only to reduce fractionally the farmer's question of what to plant in place of the cotton he normally plants. In some areas the cotton cutback has given long-needed emphasis to experimentation with other crop possibilities. Although these efforts are by no means extensive, they may prove to be of genuine importance in time to come.

One such example is sesame, an oil-seed row crop, said to be drouth resistant. Tests made in 1953 were so successful that large-scale cultivation is contemplated in some areas. Another experimental crop is guar, a soil-building plant that produces valuable seed. Guar is particularly suitable for arid West Texas where increased plantings are expected in coming years.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1909–14=100)

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Index	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	267	263	291	− 8	+ 2
ALL CROPS	238	237	255	− 7	x
Food grains	245	241	263	− 7	+ 2
Feed grains and hay	196	191	234	− 16	+ 3
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	217	162	360	− 40	+ 34
Fruit	96	133	162	− 41	− 28
Truck crops	334	304	376	− 11	+ 10
Cotton	235	236	231	+ 2	x
Oil-bearing crops	251	256	324	− 23	− 2
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	305	296	339	− 10	+ 3
Meat animals	311	283	368	− 15	+ 10
Dairy products	267	275	294	− 9	− 3
Poultry and eggs	295	316	296	x	− 7
Wool	379	385	354	+ 7	− 2

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

FINANCE

Changes in volumes of the major categories of bank assets and liabilities between December 30 and February 3 were slight and generally decreasing. Based on statements submitted by reporting member banks in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District, early 1954 totals show general increases over levels of a year earlier.

Little change in bank loans. The demand for loans remained strong during the month; the February 3rd total remained virtually unchanged from that for late December ($1,905 million for December and $1,909 million for February). But the latter total is a substantial 9% above the comparable 1953 figure ($1,756 million). Loan demand was particularly strong in the commercial, industrial, and agricultural groups. Loans to banks, real-estate loans, loans for security financing, and the "all other" loan category showed slight to moderate decreases for the month.

Mild decrease in bank investments. Bank investments in U. S. Government securities declined 1% from the late December figure ($1,274 million), reaching a total of $1,263 million on February 3. Contributing to the slight decline were the sales or redemptions of Treasury certificates of indebtedness (down 13% from $259 million to $225 million). Most of these decreases, however, were offset by substantial increases in bank holding of Treasury notes (up 9% from $200 million to $218 million) and U. S. bonds (up 5% from $676 million to $709 million).

Decline in deposit totals. Primarily as a result of late January declines in demand deposits, the February 3rd deposit total, as reported by the cooperating banks, was down 3% from the late December figure. The drop in demand deposits also mounted to 3% representing a decline in the dollar total from $2,623 million to $2,545 million. Also contributing to the decline was a 17% drop in U. S. Government deposits (down from $102 million to $85 million). Time deposit changes worked slightly toward offsetting these changes with an increase of 2% (from $629 million to $640 million).

Contrast in state and federal revenue receipts. Texas state revenue receipts continued to run ahead of year-ago totals. September-January total collections, as reported by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, exceeded $332 million, 18% in excess of the $282 million reported for the same period last year. Although increases were general in most of the income categories, the largest dollar gains were recorded for federal aid for highways (up 46% from $9.2 million to $13.5 million) and federal aid for public welfare (up 15% from $41 million to $47.3 million).

Contrary to state receipts, revenue counted by the federal collectors for the July-January portion of the current fiscal year was a sizeable 12% below last year's comparable total (from $1,120 million to $982 million). Virtually all of the change is a result of a 25% decrease in income-tax receipts although increases were recorded for both employment and withholding taxes. The "all other" federal receipt category was down 15%. Studied alone, January receipts show a 25% decrease in the total from January 1953.

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY-REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change* Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Jan 1954 from Dec 1953	Jan 1953 from Dec 1952
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 7	x	x
Loans	+ 9	x	+ 1
Total U.S. Government securities	+ 3	— 1	— 1
Treasury bills	— 31	— 20	— 13
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	+ 48	— 13	+ 1
Treasury notes	+ 3	+ 9	+ 2
Bonds	+ 1	+ 5	+ 1
Other securities	+ 15	+ 1	— 3
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	+ 4	+ 2	— 4
Cash in vaults	— 4	— 8	+ 5
Balances with domestic banks	x	— 34	— 27
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+ 5	— 3	+ 2
Demand deposits (adjusted)	x	— 3	+ 4
Time deposits	+ 30	+ 2	+ 1
U.S. Government deposits	— 6	— 17	— 24
Interbank deposits	+ 7	— 13	— 24
Domestic banks	+ 8	— 13	— 25
Foreign banks	— 17	— 9	+ 20
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 10	+ 1	+ 1

*Percentage changes are based on the day nearest the end of the month.

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

BUSINESS FAILURES

Source: Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.

Item	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
Number	12	24	8	+ 50	— 50
Liabilities (thous of dols)	514	2,743	322	+ 60	— 81
Average liabilities per failure (thous of dols)	43	212	40	+ 8	— 80

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Department

Source	July 1–January 31: 1953–54	1952–53	Percent change
TEXAS	$982,285,807	$1,119,656,969	— 12
Income	464,700,744	618,067,227	— 25
Employment	8,555,927	8,262,236	+ 4
Withholding	417,022,833	385,098,663	+ 8
Other	92,006,303	108,228,843	— 15
FIRST DISTRICT	554,815,686	610,335,469	— 9
Income	270,830,022	341,390,457	— 21
Employment	1,474,634	1,161,110	+ 27
Withholding	226,686,075	205,889,696	+ 10
Other	55,324,955	61,894,206	— 11
SECOND DISTRICT	427,970,121	509,321,500	— 16
Income	193,870,772	276,676,770	— 30
Employment	7,081,293	7,101,126	x
Withholding	190,386,758	179,208,967	+ 6
Other	36,681,348	46,334,637	— 21

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source	September 1–January 31 1953–54	1952–53	Percent change
TOTAL	$332,287,421	$282,492,860	+ 18
Ad valorem taxes	21,610,130	18,576,456	+ 16
Natural and casinghead gas production taxes	9,569,492	8,175,522	+ 17
Crude oil production taxes	53,311,285	52,633,455	+ 1
Net motor fuel taxes	46,433,271	44,940,942	+ 3
Cigarette tax and licenses	14,316,289	14,860,539	— 4
Alcoholic beverage taxes and licenses	8,642,591	8,871,234	— 3
Automobile and other sales taxes	7,161,011	7,184,416	x
Oil and gas royalties	10,214,976	8,146,306	+ 25
Interest on securities owned	5,268,117	6,360,924	— 17
Unclassified receipts from county tax collectors	2,368,130	4,512,470	— 48
Motor vehicle licenses and other	2,343,178	2,317,590	+ 1
Sale of commodities	4,982,295	3,383,320	+ 47
Federal aid—highways	13,511,299	9,239,489	+ 46
Federal aid—public health	3,455,637	4,116,396	— 16
Federal aid—public welfare	47,301,298	41,041,277	+ 15
Federal aid—public education	5,209,617	4,901,221	+ 6
All other receipts	76,588,805	43,231,303	+ 77

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

Gains in savings and loan activity. The value of loans made by Southwestern savings and loan associations increased 6% during January. Compared with year-ago figures the 1954 total represents a 4% gain. In number of loans, however, the December-January increase is only 1%, and the January-to-January increase, 6%. Increases in refinance loans (up 59% in value and 40% in number from January 1953) account for a major portion of these gains. Offsetting some of the upward tendencies were drops in construction loans (down 25% in value and 19% in number from the same month a year earlier).

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

LOANS BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
	Number				
ALL LOANS	3,044	3,002	2,866	+ 6	+ 1
Construction	522	600	644	— 19	— 13
Purchase	942	862	903	+ 4	+ 9
Refinancing	440	309	315	+ 40	+ 42
Reconditioning	336	413	264	+ 27	— 19
Other	804	818	740	+ 9	— 2
	Value (thousands of dollars)				
ALL LOANS	16,409	15,491	15,711	+ 4	+ 6
Construction	3,944	4,180	5,258	— 25	— 6
Purchase	5,706	4,897	5,408	+ 5	+ 17
Refinancing	2,946	1,816	1,644	+ 79	+ 62
Reconditioning	768	1,488	699	+ 9	— 49
Other	3,049	3,110	2,702	+ 13	— 2

FOREIGN TRADE

Anderson Clayton & Company of Houston, world's largest cotton firm, plans to send two representatives to Turkey to investigate opportunities in cotton-handling operations. The survey will be made because of increased cotton production in the Middle East and because of a new Turkish law that encourages foreign investment. No definite plans have been made for actual investment; however, if the study is favorable, the company could go to the point of "maybe building a gin," Harmon Wittington, president, indicated.

Wittington said the law, passed recently, permits the return in dollars of earnings on foreign investments and eventual return of the invested capital. Under previous Turkish law, foreign investors never knew whether they could bring their earnings or capital out.

The study will seek to find out if increased production is likely to continue, or if it is only a boom growth caused by high Korean wartime prices.

Pan-American commerce under control. To keep U. S. prices competitive with Canadian grain in world markets, the government increased its export subsidies in mid-February by four cents a bushel from Gulf ports and six cents a bushel from Atlantic Coast ports. The change was made after Canada had reduced its East Coast import price by seven cents a bushel. Grain prices in this country are being held above world market levels by a farm price support program.

The subsidy change applies to wheat sold under an international wheat agreement as well as that offered outside the agreement. The subsidies were 61 cents a bushel on wheat shipped from Gulf ports to Latin-American countries and the West Indies compared with 57 cents before the change, and 63 cents on grain exported from Gulf ports to countries other than Latin-American and the West Indies compared with 59 cents.

Brazil has earmarked $150 million to be used for payment of petroleum imports for the first half of 1954. The sum is almost half of the $360 million foreign exchange budget for Brazil for the first six months of the year.

Strict application of a new order by the Mexican government to restrict entry of foreigners into the country may cause U. S. businessmen to hesitate before investing new capital in business there. The order prohibits entry of foreigners in positions of confidence in business or industry. Managers and general heads of businesses are classified in the "positions of confidence."

Exceptions are made for those who can prove they are married to native Mexican citizens and for cases in which high authorities of the ministry of interior give permission. The order, issued last month, is being applied largely by the ministry's refusal to act on applications.

The Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany officially opened on February 5 in Houston. Its region of jurisdiction comprises the states of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Herr C. Feit is Commercial Secretary of the Commercial Section of the consulate.

ANNE K. SCHULER

LABOR

Texas is second lowest in insured unemployment. While employers and workers alike eyed with concern the rising national unemployment trend, Texas Employment Commission spokesmen showed general optimism, primarily based on the hope of a seasonal spring increase in outdoor work. Despite a sharp increase in unemployment during January, when the jobless totaled 137,700 (22% more than in December and 39% more than in January 1953), the TEC announced that Texas ranks second best in the nation in percentage of insured unemployment. At the end of January, 2.8% of workers covered by the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act were claiming benefits. The national rate was 5.9%, while Florida, the lowest state, registered 2.6%.

For the first time in four years a Texas city, Texarkana, entered the "substantial labor surplus" classification. Such classifications are made by the Federal Bureau of Employment Security in metropolitan areas when employment exceeds 6% of the total labor force.

Texarkana unemployment increased from 3,350 in December to 4,200 in January. Reports of labor requirements by local employers indicate that the March payroll will likely fall 3,750 short of the estimated 45,490 civilian labor force in Texarkana.

In Dallas, TEC Director M. R. Kelly forecast a labor surplus of 2.3 to 2.8% for March, as compared with the 3% Dallas labor surplus in January and the 4% surplus over the state during recent months. Other TEC offices in Beaumont and Waco looked for a March decline in unemployment. Beaumont reported that employer requirements there will increase by about 500 workers between February and March. In Waco, a mid-March demand for more workers is also anticipated.

Year-end cutbacks and government reductions decreased employment in San Antonio, and further decreases in government employment are in prospect, although nongovernment employment is expected to hold level. Mid-January estimates showed unemployment at 8.4% of the total labor force in San Antonio; however, about a third of those registered as "unemployed" are newcomers to the area, many of them northerners who come south only for the winter months.

The right to work in Texas. Court action in Texas, dealing with compulsory union membership, may affect 10,000 workers employed by the Santa Fe railroad in a dozen states and may eventually influence contracts that now cover 200,000 offtrain employees of other major roads. The Texas decision, given by Judge E. C. Nelson of Amarillo, bars the Atchison, Topeka and 16 "nonoperating" railroads from negotiating a union-shop contract. The constitutionality of an amendment to the Railway Labor Act of 1951, opening the way for a union shop, is challenged, as are the Texas "right to work" laws. The case is now under consideration by the Texas Supreme Court and may be fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Only three new labor-management disputes, involving 23 workers, were reported to the Texas Employment Commission in January.

ANNE K. SCHULER

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Classification	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	Jan 1954*	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Jan 1954*	Dec 1953	Jan 1953	Jan 1954*	Dec 1953	Jan 1953
ALL MANUFACTURING	$70.79	$71.82	$68.62	41.4	42.0	42.1	$1.71	$1.71	$1.63
Durable goods	70.64	72.50	69.17	41.8	42.9	42.7	1.69	1.69	1.62
Primary metals	80.80	77.81	78.06	40.0	39.7	41.3	2.02	1.96	1.89
Machinery—except electrical	79.17	78.44	73.95	43.5	43.1	43.5	1.82	1.82	1.70
Oil field machinery	87.71	86.33	81.72	44.3	43.6	43.7	1.98	1.98	1.87
Transportation equipment	82.41	87.09	78.02	40.2	42.9	41.5	2.05	2.03	1.88
Fabricated metal products	70.42	69.76	68.10	43.2	43.6	43.1	1.63	1.60	1.58
Lumber and wood products	50.40	51.42	50.06	44.6	45.5	44.7	1.13	1.13	1.12
Furniture and fixtures	52.32	60.43	55.04	43.6	45.1	43.0	1.20	1.34	1.28
Stone, clay, and glass	62.31	64.67	60.62	42.1	43.4	43.3	1.48	1.49	1.40
Nondurable goods	70.76	71.45	68.48	40.9	41.3	41.5	1.73	1.73	1.65
Textile mill products	43.87	45.89	48.16	41.0	42.1	43.0	1.07	1.09	1.12
Broad woven goods	44.41	45.89	46.32	41.5	42.1	42.5	1.07	1.09	1.09
Apparel and fabric products	37.70	38.28	40.30	37.7	37.9	40.3	1.00	1.01	1.00
Food	63.42	62.85	60.35	42.0	41.9	42.2	1.51	1.50	1.43
Meat packing	76.04	76.73	74.23	41.1	41.7	41.7	1.85	1.84	1.78
Paper and allied products	71.34	72.14	71.40	41.0	41.7	42.0	1.74	1.73	1.70
Printing	78.69	85.17	79.79	38.2	39.8	39.5	2.06	2.14	2.02
Chemicals and allied products	82.65	82.65	79.79	43.5	43.5	43.6	1.90	1.90	1.83
Vegetable oil mills	52.77	51.70	51.84	53.3	53.3	52.9	0.99	0.97	0.98
Petroleum and coal products	95.51	96.29	91.76	40.3	40.8	40.6	2.37	2.36	2.26
Leather products	51.26	52.27	56.58	46.6	48.4	58.1	1.10	1.08	0.96
NONMANUFACTURING									
Mining	95.92	94.61	92.98	43.6	43.4	44.7	2.20	2.18	2.08
Crude petroleum products	97.45	96.57	94.98	43.7	43.5	44.8	2.23	2.22	2.12
Sulfur	84.26	84.24	79.18	41.1	41.5	40.4	2.05	2.03	1.96
Public utilities	66.07	66.90	62.02	39.8	40.3	39.5	1.66	1.66	1.57
Retail trade	56.64	55.44	52.56	44.6	44.0	43.8	1.27	1.26	1.20
Wholesale trade	71.01	72.16	68.70	43.3	44.0	45.5	1.64	1.64	1.51

Figures do not cover proprietors, firm members, or other principal executives.
*Preliminary—subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

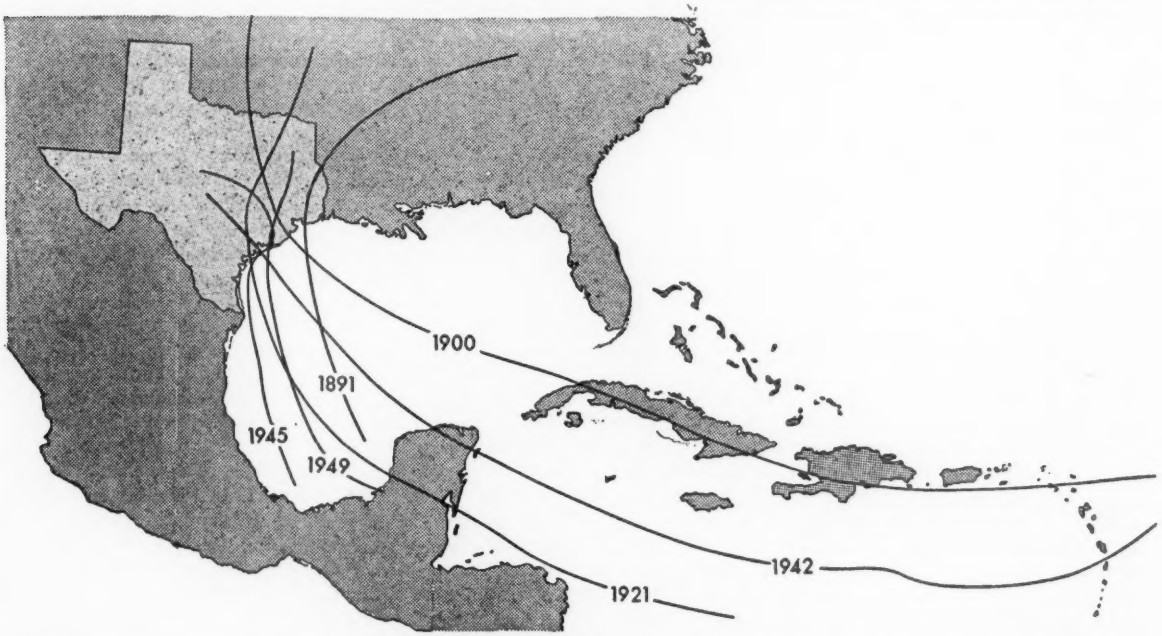
Weather—and the Texas economy

The Texas sky is a roiling, blue chaos where continental air masses move against warm, northeast tradewinds from the sea. When they meet, almost anything may happen, and the observation of Texas weather is growing into a major business and agricultural service—for there is always plenty to observe.

In a state which takes pride in its extremes, the vagaries of the Texas weather have provided material for innumerable anecdotes. But the climatic characteristics of the state present some very real problems for the businessman, the farmer, and the public official. Erratic fluctuations in retail sales, for example, may frequently be correlated with fluctuations in local climatic conditions. The citrus grower in the Rio Grande Valley is regularly harassed by the prospect of snap freezes. The manufacturer on the Gulf Coast is vulnerable to extensive damage during the hurricane season. The public works administrator must sometimes contend with devastating floods and severe storms which dislocate his community and take a heavy toll in damage and in casualties.

Until quite recently it was easier to talk about the weather than to do anything about it. Yet the forecasting of weather conditions is in one sense analogous in principle to more orthodox types of economic forecasts, which allow an organization to anticipate future demands on their services and to gear activities to probable circumstances. Climatic influences may be more transient than economic factors; but the need for forecasting the weather and relating this to current operations can be equally important. The development of new techniques in Texas which make possible a more accurate anticipation of weather conditions accordingly have a considerable practical economic significance.

The most obvious and the most spectacular consequences of adverse weather conditions are experienced in Texas at times of severe and extreme disturbances associated with the tornado and the hurricane. Hurricanes characteristically originate in the North Atlantic between the Cape Verdes and the Caribbean and travel in a westerly direction, the period of greatest frequency being July–September. On the average, seven hurricanes a year develop in this area, and probably one-quarter of all hurricanes approach or cross the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the U. S. The coastal regions are particularly susceptible to hurricanes, partly because of their tendency to recurve onto a northeasterly track as they approach the continent between the 25th and 30th parallels, and partly because those which move into the interior apparently dissipate within a relatively short distance. A small hurricane may not exceed 25 miles in diameter, while major ones have measured as much as 500 miles. But there is little variation in the wind velocities near the center of any hurricane, where they typically maintain consistent strengths exceeding 100 miles per hour for several minutes at any given point and in many cases intermittently exceed 150 miles per hour. The violent winds



The stormy Gulf. Each line on the map above charts the westward path of a typical hurricane. These and dozens more have blasted across the coastlines of Texas and other Gulf and Atlantic states, sometimes with tremendous loss of life and property.

are accompanied by heavy and continuous rain squalls, and, along the Gulf Coast, by extreme tidal conditions which have ranged as high as 16 feet above normal. The destruction of Galveston in 1900, with a loss of 7,500 lives, and the effects of the 23.11 inch rainfall in one day at Taylor in 1921 vividly illustrate the potential danger to the heavily industrialized sector of the Texas Gulf Coast between Corpus Christi and Port Arthur.

The U. S. Weather Bureau has operated a hurricane warning system along the Gulf Coast for many years, tracking and predicting severe weather disturbances from shipping reports, aircraft reconnaissance, and by the use of orthodox meteorological instruments. Sometimes, however, the time-lag between receipt of the warning and the onset of the storm in affected areas made it impossible to maintain continuous observation over the track of storms, which frequently move along erratic paths. This often led to false and extended alerts which unnecessarily disrupted civic and private business operations.

The means for accurately and continuously tracking weather conditions came with the wartime development of radar. In 1946, the U. S. Weather Bureau commenced using radar for meteorological purposes, operating with specially adapted Navy APS-2F radar sets. Since radar is effective in observing rainfall associated with severe weather phenomena, and since there are characteristic rainfall patterns within the typical hurricane, radar has proved of particular value in the establishment of a warning network along the Gulf Coast. This has been made possible by a unique system of cooperation between the Weather Bureau and private organizations.

The southern hinge of the network is the Weather Bureau station at Brownsville, operating a radar unit with an effective range of approximately 100 miles. At Corpus Christi, Central Power and Light Company has an installation covering the next segment of the Texas coast. North and east of Corpus Christi, the Copano Research Foundation operates a powerful radar unit at Victoria, and at Freeport, Dow Chemical Company has an equally powerful installation. Both the Victoria and the Freeport radar units have extreme ranges of 350 to 400 miles.

All information assembled by the private organizations is forwarded exclusively to the U. S. Weather Bureau, permitting the preparation of accurate and timely forecasts. The economic advantages derived from the use of the new techniques are considerable. Not only do they allow adequate measures to be taken to deal with any impending storm, but they also eliminate the need for unnecessary shutdowns and layoffs. This is particularly important with many of the continuous-process industries located on the Gulf Coast. Shutdowns must normally be commenced at least 12 hours before the onset of a storm, and the need to curtail operations only when the storm comes within the critical radius of a plant cuts wasted time to a minimum.

The hurricane warning system along the Gulf may be regarded as reasonably complete. The tornado warning system based on the use of radar is still in the formative stage. One outcome of the disastrous Waco tornado in May 1953 was a statewide movement to provide an adequate network of radar meteorological stations for advance warning of tornadoes, which sometimes develop too rapidly to be pinpointed and accurately tracked by conventional meteorological methods. Texas A & M Research Foundation and the U. S. Weather Bureau are currently engaged in organizing this system. The Weather Bureau has made available a number of surplus radar sets which, with modification, are suitable for meteorological use. Texas A & M Research Foundation has already approached cities in which U. S. Weather Bureau offices are located and has installed, or plans to install, sets in those communities which agree to pay the cost of modification and installation of the radar units ($9,000 to $13,000).

Under this program sets have already been installed in Houston and Abilene. Contracts have also been signed to modify and install sets in Galveston, Fort Worth, San Angelo, and Midland, and these are scheduled to be in operation by June, 1954. A set is also being installed at Lake Charles, Louisiana, which will cover a section of Southeast Texas. In addition to these installations, the Weather Bureau now operates radar units at Brownsville, Amarillo, and Wichita Falls. It is believed that Austin, El Paso, Lubbock, and San Antonio will also shortly become cooperating communities within the general system; city authorities in Austin recently indicated that financial arrangements for radar installation have been completed.

Predicting severe storms is perhaps the most obvious application of meteorological radar. However, there are numerous other uses, some of which are still in the experimental state. For example, the Illinois State Water Survey has recently examined the possibility of using radar for estimating area rainfall—an application of particular value in Texas. It has been found that area precipitation estimates derived from radar observations at ranges up to 70 miles have given data as accurate as that which might be expected from rain-gauge data based on a 1-gauge-per-3-square-mile network. One especially interesting application of the use of radar in the field of quantitative precipitation measurement is the forecasting of possible flash-floods based on estimates of the type of rainfall occurring over an area. Rainfall reports, particularly in isolated areas, are sometimes inaccurate and insufficient. Under severe conditions the time-lag between the dispatch and receipt of on-the-spot reports may be serious, and communications from the affected areas are liable to be disrupted.

Experts also anticipate that radar can be used in tracking the approach of frontal weather (e.g., the exact location and velocity of wet northers) and even in estimating the character of rain—the dimensions of raindrops, for example—which would provide valuable data in basic erosion studies. Of interest to East Texas farmers and forestry officials is the possibility of using radar to locate storms from which lightning discharges might be expected. Advance notice of conditions which may lead to forest fires might prove invaluable in combating them.

Recent developments in the establishment of a radar network have added immeasurably to the accuracy of forecasts of general weather conditions. But it is apparent that for some purposes the information and reports issued by the Weather Bureau, which are necessarily concerned with areal analyses, will not be sufficiently specific with respect to local or immediate conditions. The need for short term forecasts is critical for the offshore drilling crews, for example, who must schedule operations in accordance with wind and sea conditions that may vary greatly in the space of a few hours, within fairly limited

areas. It is not the policy of the Weather Bureau to make available to individual companies any specific information from its radar network; and although the Bureau does undertake short-term forecasting for companies or industry groups, the recent report of the George Committee has recommended that private meteorological consultancy should properly be left to private weather forecasting and consulting services.

Offshore drillers in the coastal waters of the Gulf have made extensive use of the services of A. H. Glenn and Associates, a private weather consulting and forecasting organization with headquarters in New Orleans. According to recent information, this firm is providing short-term weather information for sulphur companies as well as for offshore drillers, augmenting Weather Bureau data with continuous observations from selected offshore rigs. In addition to operational weather forecasts, other services based on applied meterorological and oceanographic techniques are available to many Gulf Coast industries. Thus, the Glenn organization has undertaken such diverse projects as a study of the feasibility of offshore cargo barging, soil temperature studies affecting pipeline design and construction, the effects of sea conditions on offshore gravity meter exploration, and design studies for coastal and offshore installations. It is not possible to determine the extent to which other industries in the state are utilizing tailor-made weather forecasts and other applied data as a regular basis for operations. Companies on the Gulf Coast have demonstrated considerable interest in the forecasting problem, because of their vulnerability to severe conditions. Thus, in 1950 many of the major manufacturers and public utilities tentatively agreed to organize the Gulf Industries Weather Network, which was intended to provide special weather information to cooperators from Weather Bureau stations as a supplement to the normal Weather Bureau information service. To date, however, this proposal has not resulted in any concrete action.

But if the need for information on extreme conditions has an obvious relevancy and cogency, it appears that routine forecasting is used to a rather limited extent with the state. For many organizations, of course, normal weather variations will have little or no effect upon routine operations. Yet there are valid reasons why weather data may be used more extensively by a number of industries and types of business. The DuPont Company, for example, has employed staff meteorologists since 1943 to advise on new plant locations; and particular use has been made of weather forecasts on construction projects. In this connection, considerable economies have resulted from rescheduling operations to conform to the limitations which weather conditions impose on outside work. More extensive use of these techniques may well result in significant economies and in the speeding-up of construction projects in the state.

Companies interested in making use of private weather forecasting services are advised to consult the accredited list of meteorological consultants issued by the American Meteorological Society. Special projects in the field of basic and applied meteorology are also undertaken in Texas by the Engineering Research Laboratory of The University of Texas, and by the Texas A & M Research Foundation at College Station. The range of uses of private forecasting services is extremely varied and, in some cases, rather surprising. Among the services rendered by one private forecaster have been the advising of a bakery group on short-term temperature changes, to enable the producers to gauge demand for pastry sales; information has been given to lobster wholesalers on weather conditions in the fishing areas so that variations in supply may be anticipated. Some restaurants have commissioned special forecasts to determine whether the day's menu should feature a salad or a stew. Other forecasts have been made for sales organizations handling seasonal consumer goods to estimate the probable onset of seasonal weather so that advertising and selling programs can be scheduled and coordinated at the correct moment. And the date of at least one wedding has been fixed after consultation with a private meteorologist.

The possibility of controlling the weather and not merely anticipating it has always aroused widespread interest. The vagaries of the rainfall and the recurrent periods of acute drouth over the western half of Texas have induced in the past many colorful and ingenious proposals designed to increase rainfall. Most of the proposed methods had doubtful scientific antecedents, but in recent years the technique of seeding clouds with silver iodide crystals or with dry ice has produced some significant results. In spite of controversy over the effectiveness of this method of increasing rainfall, there has been considerable commercial exploitation in Texas. During 1951 six separate areas of the state (three in the Coastal Bend and Lower Grande Valley, one in central Texas, one in West Texas, and one in the Panhandle) were covered by cloud-seeding projects. Results have not been universally satisfactory, and since 1951 it is evident that the number of cloud-seeding projects has been greatly reduced in Texas. However, during 1952 the city of Dallas commissioned a rain increasing project in an effort to replenish its seriously depleted reservoirs. Between November 1952 and May 1953, a series of seeding operations from silver iodide ground generators was undertaken; subsequent measurements showed that the amount of water in storage in the Dallas drainage basin had increased 363% between January and June 1953. Increase in nearby drainage basins was much less (e.g., water in storage at Bridgeport increased by only 19%), and in some cases, decreases were noted, as in the Wichita Falls area. Dallas has renewed its contract for 1954.

Professional rainmakers have never pretended infallibility, but they maintain, with sound theoretical justification, that artificial methods of increasing rainmaking are a practical proposition. The difference between the controlled laboratory experiment and its practical application is, however, very great. If the techniques of weather control should reach the stage where effects can be consistently and accurately predicted, the consequences will be far-reaching, for control over environment has always been a critical factor in cultural and economic progress. The case for cloud seeding is still theoretically *sub judice*, however, and the recent developments in applied synoptic meteorology are at present of greater significance. Inasmuch as they provide practical methods of anticipating severe and destructive weather or of suggesting more expedient operations scheduling, they have an immediate economic relevancy which should not be neglected by business management and civic authorities in the state.

ALFRED G. DALE

Local Business

City and item	January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
ABILENE: (pop. 45,570)			
Retail sales		— 18	— 45
Department and apparel stores		— 7	— 53
Postal receipts	$ 61,564	x	— 41
Value of building permits	$ 401,920	— 23	+ 10
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 60,444	+ 8	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 54,601	— 4	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.2	+ 8	0
Employment	26,400	+ 2	x
Manufacturing employment	3,410	+ 1	— 3
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.0	+ 22	+ 16
Air express shipments	308	+ 25	— 33
ALPINE: (pop. 5,261)			
Postal receipts	$ 3,229	— 16	— 52
Value of building permits	$ 2,500	— 29	— 96
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,161	— 14	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 3,884	— 13	— 12
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.3	— 7	+ 2
Air express shipments	24	+1100	+200
AMARILLO: (pop. 74,246)			
Retail sales*		— 11	— 37
Department and apparel stores		— 14	— 52
Drug stores*		— 27	— 15
Furniture and household appliance stores*		+ 5	— 13
Postal receipts	$ 115,277	— 4	— 41
Value of building permits	$ 1,002,049	— 48	+ 20
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 124,045	— 14	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 99,397	— 17	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.9	— 8	— 3
Employment	42,800	— 1	— 1
Manufacturing employment	4,800	— 6	— 3
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.9	+ 23	+ 18
Air express shipments	728	+ 55	— 21
AUSTIN: (pop. 132,459)			
Retail sales		— 10	— 38
Automotive stores		— 13	— 20
Department and apparel stores		— 5	— 60
Eating and drinking places		+ 21	+ 9
Food stores		+ 14	+ 5
Furniture and household appliance stores		x	— 13
General merchandise stores		— 5	— 68
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 32	— 29
Postal receipts	$ 218,217	+ 10	— 31
Value of building permits	$ 1,366,339	— 37	— 14
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 111,551	+ 1	— 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 101,327	— 17	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.0	— 3	— 5
Employment	60,800	+ 6	— 1
Manufacturing employment	4,275	+ 3	— 2
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.4	+ 38	+ 26
Air express shipments	692	— 1	— 29
BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,983)			
Postal receipts	$ 15,253	— 5	— 53
Value of building permits	$ 402,314	+ 77	+185
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 19,783	+ 4	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 21,219	+ 6	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.1	— 4	+ 2
Employment (area)	353,200	— 1	— 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	80,900	— 4	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	4.1	+ 78	+ 24

City and item	January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
BEAUMONT: (pop. 94,014)			
Retail sales*		— 15	— 23
Automotive stores*		+ 1	+ 37
Department and apparel stores		— 9	— 61
Eating and drinking places*		— 21	— 13
Food stores*		+ 11	— 3
Furniture and household appliance stores*		— 29	— 32
General merchandise stores*		— 14	— 64
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		— 1	— 11
Postal receipts	$ 81,130	— 3	— 47
Value of building permits	$ 499,978	— 60	+ 78
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 122,087	— 13	— 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 101,463	— 4	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.3	— 16	— 13
Employment (area)	78,570	x	— 1
Manufacturing employment (area)	26,375	+ 1	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	6.5	+ 48	+ 16
Air express shipments	241	0	— 33
Waterborne commerce (tons)	39,446	+ 78	— 9
BEEVILLE: (pop. 9,348)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,216	— 28	— 44
Value of building permits	$ 100,195	+132	+933
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,063	— 5	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 11,646	— 8	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.1	+ 3	+ 6
Air express shipments	4	— 60	— 71
BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,286)			
Retail sales		— 15	— 20
Department and apparel stores		+ 5	— 36
Postal receipts	$ 17,725	— 14	— 54
Value of building permits	$ 70,780	— 32	+216
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,865	— 4	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 23,390	— 5	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.5	+ 1	0
Air express shipments	32	— 33	— 40
BORGER: (pop. 18,059)			
Value of building permits	$ 138,850	+155	+906
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 11,528	.....	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 14,332	.....	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.0	.....	0
Air express shipments	44	— 31	— 29
BRENHAM: (pop. 6,941)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,880	— 20	— 46
Value of building permits	$ 41,447	+ 11	+ 24
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,267	+ 2	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	$ 10,991	+ 4	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.7	— 3	+ 8
BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,066)			
Retail sales*		— 21	— 23
Department and apparel stores		+ 10	— 48
Postal receipts	$ 28,847	+ 24	— 21
Value of building permits	$ 103,650	x	+543
Air express shipments	384	— 12	— 9
Tourist cars entering Mexico	413	.....	— 31
Waterborne commerce (tons)	102,090	+ 45	+ 32

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

Conditions

City and item		January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,181)				
Retail sales			— 11	— 51
Department and apparel stores			— 5	— 61
Postal receipts	$	16,473	+ 9	— 36
Value of building permits	$	8,146	— 71	— 89
Bank debits (thousands)	$	9,531	x	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	13,704	+ 5	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.1	— 7	+ 7
Air express shipments		11	— 35	— 63
BRYAN: (pop. 18,102)				
Department and apparel store sales			— 24	— 47
Postal receipts	$	18,868	— 2	— 34
Value of building permits	$	336,910	+185	+239
Air express shipments		17	+ 41	— 29
CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,287)				
Retail sales			— 9	— 36
Apparel stores			+ 3	— 46
Automotive stores			— 6	— 11
Country general stores			— 11	— 12
Department stores†			— 14	— 62
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			— 20	— 5
Postal receipts	$	118,786	+ 6	— 46
Value of building permits	$	2,425,879	— 11	— 55
Bank debits (thousands)	$	152,229	— 6	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	101,939	— 11	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		17.4	— 4	+ 9
Employment		60,500	+ 2	— 1
Manufacturing employment		7,810	+ 10	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed		6.3	+ 47	+ 21
Air express shipments		338	— 19	— 45
CORSICANA: (pop. 19,211)				
Postal receipts	$	16,536	+ 13	— 59
Bank debits (thousands)	$	15,397	— 4	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	22,130	— 4	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.3	— 8	— 7
DALLAS: (pop. 434,462)				
Retail sales*			— 14	— 37
Apparel stores*			— 17	— 52
Automotive stores*			— 12	— 26
Department stores†			— 9	— 56
Drug stores*			— 15	— 26
Eating and drinking places*			— 12	— 2
Farm and garden supply dealers*			— 56	— 38
Filling stations*			x	— 14
Florists*			— 21	— 46
Food stores*			— 3	— 6
Furniture and household appliance stores*			— 32	— 36
General merchandise stores*			— 12	— 62
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 37	— 28
Office, store, and school supply dealers*			— 10	+ 5
Postal receipts	$	1,437,246	+ 3	— 34
Value of building permits	$	9,255,950	— 10	+ 40
Bank debits (thousands)	$	1,892,512	+ 6	— 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	927,296	— 15	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		24.2	+ 1	— 12
Employment		306,300		— 2
Manufacturing employment		76,200		— 1
Percent of labor force unemployed		3.1		+ 41
Air express shipments		8,727	— 6	— 12

City and item		January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
DEL RIO: (pop. 14,211)				
Postal receipts	$	10,435	+ 11	— 43
Value of building permits	$	139,950	+ 96	+ 91
Bank debits (thousands)	$	7,071	— 6	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	10,190	— 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.3	— 2	— 6
Air express shipments		19	— 21	— 30
Tourists entering Mexico		21,417		— 11
Tourist cars entering Mexico		6,612		— 7
DENISON: (pop. 17,504)				
Retail sales			— 1	— 19
Department and apparel stores			— 9	— 62
Postal receipts	$	15,558	+ 14	— 36
Value of building permits	$	35,581	+ 8	— 67
Bank debits (thousands)	$	12,170	+ 3	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	18,431	+ 29	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.7	— 18	+ 5
DENTON: (pop. 21,372)				
Retail sales			— 10	— 42
Postal receipts	$	20,921	+ 8	— 28
Value of building permits	$	94,800	— 54	+101
Bank debits (thousands)	$	10,824	— 1	— 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	13,756	+ 2	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.3	— 3	— 9
EAGLE PASS: (pop. 7,276)				
Postal receipts	$	5,051	— 1	— 39
Value of building permits	$	65,971	+ 20	+107
Bank debits (thousands)	$	8,415		— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	8,447		— 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover		11.5		— 5
Air express shipments		9	— 31	— 64
EDINBURG: (pop. 12,383)				
Postal receipts	$	7,444	— 22	— 49
Value of building permits	$	31,767	+ 12	+1337
Bank debits (thousands)	$	8,712	— 5	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	10,242	— 2	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover		10.0	— 2	+ 1
Air express shipments		12	+ 9	— 37
EL PASO: (pop. 130,485)				
Retail sales*			— 13	— 51
Apparel stores*			+ 5	— 69
Department stores†			— 12	— 57
Drug stores*			— 4	— 29
Furniture and household appliance stores*			— 50	— 12
General merchandise stores*			— 11	— 57
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 38	— 9
Office, store, and school supply dealers*			+ 3	+ 12
Piano and musical instrument stores*			— 27	— 32
Postal receipts	$	196,874	+ 9	— 40
Value of building permits	$	1,770,497	— 15	+105
Bank debits (thousands)	$	210,835	— 12	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	126,943	— 25	— 4
Annual rate of deposits turnover		19.4	— 11	— 11
Employment		67,900		— 1
Manufacturing employment		10,725		— 1
Percent of labor force unemployed		4.7		+ 15
Air express shipments		1,540	— 7	— 17
Tourists entering Mexico		2,911	— 22	— 23
Tourist cars entering Mexico		1,118	— 23	— 29

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
FORT WORTH: (pop. 278,778)			
Retail sales*		— 19	— 30
Apparel stores*		— 6	— 28
Automotive stores*		— 48	— 20
Department stores†		— 15	— 61
Drug stores*		— 8	— 25
Eating and drinking places*		— 10	— 3
Filling stations*		+ 3	— 15
Food stores*		— 8	— 20
Furniture and household appliance stores*		— 24	— 24
General merchandise stores*		— 13	— 63
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		— 40	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 496,259	+ 3	— 42
Value of building permits	$ 2,457,717	— 32	+ 54
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 533,710	— 5	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 838,420	— 15	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	18.8	— 6	— 9
Employment	170,900	— 2	— 1
Manufacturing employment	50,550	— 9	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.4	+ 35	+ 17
Air express shipments	1,608	— 20	— 21
GALVESTON: (pop. 66,568)			
Retail sales		— 20	— 35
Automotive stores		— 31	— 13
Department and apparel stores		— 8	— 57
Eating and drinking places		— 13	— 3
Food stores		— 1	— 3
Furniture and household appliance stores		+ 41	+ 3
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		— 42	+ 50
Postal receipts	$ 70,423	+ 4	— 38
Value of building permits	$ 161,957	— 33	— 33
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 77,992	— 6	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 79,731	— 23	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.6	— 19	— 2
Employment (area)	45,300	— 6	— 2
Manufacturing employment (area)	11,100	— 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.7	+ 63	+ 39
Air express shipments	333	+ 26	— 35
GARLAND: (pop. 10,571)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,241	+ 6	— 54
Value of building permits	$ 491,058	— 3	+147
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,598	+ 11	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,525	+ 32	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	— 17	— 1
GOLDTHWAITE: (pop. 1,566)			
Retail sales*			— 28
Postal receipts	$ 1,740	+ 2	— 52
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,044	— 3	+ 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,026	+ 20	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.9		+ 13
GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,727)			
Department and apparel store sales		— 24	— 68
Postal receipts	$ 16,414	+ 15	— 43
Value of building permits	$ 51,150	— 29	+220
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,594	+ 8	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 16,872	+ 26	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.2	— 21	— 16
GONZALES: (pop. 5,569)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,085	— 22	— 52
Value of building permits	$ 28,711	— 13	— 1
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,537	— 11	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,028	— 8	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	3.2	— 66	— 70
GLADEWATER: (pop. 5,305)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,216	+ 2	— 33
Value of building permits	$ 52,500		— 67
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,922	— 7	— 28
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,678	+ 12	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.8		— 27
Employment (area)	23,900		— 2
Manufacturing employment (area)	4,000		+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.1		+ 21
Air express shipments	4	— 20	— 50
HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,229)			
Postal receipts	$ 23,811	— 1	— 45
Value of building permits	$ 132,791	+ 16	+188
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 23,816	— 7	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 18,278	— 8	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	20.1	+ 29	+ 28
Air express shipments	225	+213	x
HENDERSON: (pop. 6,833)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,423	— 25	— 58
Value of building permits	$ 54,500	+ 36	+137
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,800	+ 69	+ 26
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,001	— 3	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.9	+146	+ 6
HEREFORD: (pop. 5,207)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,153	— 15	— 53
Value of building permits	$ 18,500	— 41	— 49
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,426	— 6	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,274	— 3	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	3.7	— 67	— 67
HOUSTON: (pop. 596,163)			
Retail sales¶		— 8	— 28
Apparel stores¶		— 13	— 46
Automotive stores¶		— 12	— 6
Department stores†		— 9	— 56
Drug stores¶		— 8	— 15
Eating and drinking places¶		— 2	— 7
Filling stations¶		+ 9	— 15
Food stores¶		— 10	— 28
Furniture and household appliance stores¶		+ 8	— 28
General merchandise stores¶		— 6	— 60
Jewelry stores¶		— 22	— 79
Liquor stores¶		— 9	— 57
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores¶		— 18	— 2
Postal receipts	$ 893,285	x	— 43
Value of building permits	$11,789,422	+ 23	+ 31
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,724,281	— 1	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 1,095,861	— 8	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	18.4	— 8	— 8
Employment (area)	353,200	— 1	— 3
Manufacturing employment (area)	80,900	— 4	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	4.1	+ 78	+ 24
Air express shipments	4,134	— 11	— 23

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
KILGORE: (pop. 9,638)			
Postal receipts	$ 12,314	+ 2	− 42
Value of building permits	$ 10,000	− 55	− 65
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 13,213	− 3	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,828	+ 1	− 2
Employment (area)	23,900	.....	− 2
Manufacturing employment (area)	4,000	.....	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.1	.....	+ 21
Air express shipments	16	− 30	− 45
KILLEEN: (pop. 7,045)			
Postal receipts	$ 17,728	− 2	− 42
Value of building permits	$ 55,900	− 4	+ 19
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,461	− 11	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 9,685	− 6	− 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.4	− 5	− 2
LAMESA: (pop. 10,704)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,489	− 21	− 48
Value of building permits	$ 12,000	− 13	− 61
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,731	− 36	− 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 11,618	− 18	− 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.9	− 21	− 5
LAMPASAS: (pop. 4,869)			
Retail sales*	.....	.....	− 21
Postal receipts	$ 4,402	− 14	− 35
Value of building permits	$ 256,500	+850	+1363
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,536	− 9	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,202	− 4	− 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.7	− 6	+ 8
LAREDO: (pop. 51,910)			
Postal receipts	$ 24,219	− 12	− 40
Value of building permits	$ 34,475	− 20	− 28
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 21,539	− 13	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 18,537	− 29	− 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.7	− 4	+ 2
Air express shipments	144	− 52	− 33
Tourists entering Mexico	7,896	− 17	− 24
Tourist cars entering Mexico	3,065	− 15	− 9
LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,502)			
Postal receipts	$ 26,749	+ 11	− 40
Value of building permits	$ 590,725	− 11	− 27
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 29,808	− 22	− 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 36,428	− 6	− 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	− 16	− 10
Employment (area)	23,900	.....	− 2
Manufacturing employment (area)	4,000	.....	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	5.1	.....	+ 21
Air express shipments	156	+ 8	− 28
LEVELLAND: (pop. 8,264)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,428	− 3	− 46
Value of building permits	$ 46,700	− 56	+154
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 8,535	− 14	− 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,575	x	− 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.5	− 14	− 21
LLANO: (pop. 2,954)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,144	+ 7	− 32
Value of building permits	$ 12,000	− 57	.....
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,108	+ 2	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,361	− 4	− 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	+ 6	+ 6
LOCKHART: (pop. 5,573)			
Department and apparel store sales	.....	+ 7	− 52
Postal receipts	$ 4,905	+ 52	− 24
Value of building permits	$ 25,000	+733	− 11
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,228	+ 3	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 5,108	x	− 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	− 1	+ 14
LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,747)			
Retail sales	.....	− 22	− 31
Automotive stores	.....	− 18	− 4
Department and apparel stores	.....	− 16	− 55
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	− 45	− 28
General merchandise stores	.....	− 14	− 54
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	− 41	+ 12
Postal receipts	$ 89,466	+ 11	− 37
Value of building permits	$ 2,096,043	x	+161
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 135,446	− 6	− 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 93,123	− 23	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	17.8	+ 7	− 13
Employment	39,500	+ 3	− 1
Manufacturing employment	3,790	+ 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.6	+ 70	+ 10
Air express shipments	725	+ 40	− 27
LUFKIN: (pop. 15,135)			
Postal receipts	$ 14,724	+ 12	− 31
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 16,574	− 1	− 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 19,267	− 13	− 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.9	+ 9	+ 1
Air express shipments	27	− 36	− 57
McALLEN: (pop. 20,067)			
Retail sales	.....	− 9	− 24
Department and apparel stores	.....	− 16	− 41
Postal receipts	$ 16,790	− 7	− 17
Value of building permits	$ 42,250	− 33	x
Air express shipments	36	− 28	− 62
MARSHALL: (pop. 22,327)			
Department and apparel store sales	.....	− 5	− 64
Postal receipts	$ 16,770	− 8	− 49
Value of building permits	$ 39,345	− 92	− 71
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 13,353	− 16	− 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,335	x	− 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.9	− 14	− 4
Air express shipments	22	.....	− 4
MERCEDES: (pop. 10,081)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,590	+ 7	− 46
Value of building permits	$ 7,709	+366	+451
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,771	− 11	+ 24
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 5,821	− 10	− 14
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.8	− 6	+ 23
MIDLAND: (pop. 21,713)			
Postal receipts	$ 46,526	− 8	− 39
Value of building permits	$ 596,155	− 77	+126
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 51,551	− 7	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 67,325	+ 9	− 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.1	− 19	+ 1
Air express shipments	245	+ 67	− 39

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
NACOGDOCHES: (pop. 12,327)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,010	+ 1	— 33
Value of building permits	$ 11,875	— 18	+ 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 8,725	— 13	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,691	— 2	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.1	— 11	— 5
NEW BRAUNFELS: (pop. 12,210)			
Postal receipts	$ 12,470	+ 13	— 52
Value of building permits	$ 91,675	— 38	+191
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,745	.....	— 31
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 9,293	.....	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.6	.....	— 28
ODESSA: (pop. 29,495)			
Retail sales	.....	— 11	— 36
Department and apparel store sales	.....	— 10	— 56
Postal receipts	$ 38,267	— 1	— 41
Value of building permits	$ 815,705	+ 18	+114
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 34,019	— 6	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 31,809	— 10	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.4	+ 4	— 4
Air express shipments	122	— 13	— 19
ORANGE: (pop. 21,174)			
Postal receipts	$ 17,983	+ 12	— 38
Value of building permits	$ 166,320	— 61	— 63
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 18,514	— 3	— 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 23,738	x	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.2	— 5	— 15
PALESTINE: (pop. 12,503)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,612	— 9	— 59
Value of building permits	$ 39,488	+158	— 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,919	— 4	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,718	— 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.6	.....	— 5
PAMPA: (pop. 16,583)			
Postal receipts	$ 13,896	— 5	— 52
Value of building permits	$ 126,890	+ 2	+3212
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 15,119	— 11	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,946	— 5	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.6	.....	— 5
PARIS: (pop. 21,643)			
Retail sales	.....	— 15	— 31
Department and apparel store sales	.....	— 17	— 67
Postal receipts	$ 15,259	+ 8	.....
Value of building permits	$ 9,292	— 52	— 65
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,918	— 2	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 15,028	+ 1	— 11
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	— 4	— 7
Air express shipments	37	— 20	— 35
PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,044)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 1	— 19
Department and apparel stores	.....	x	— 57
Postal receipts	$ 13,832	+ 4	— 47
Value of building permits	$ 274,500	+167	+120
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 24,591	+ 10	— 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 27,100	+ 2	+ 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.3	— 10	— 21
Air express shipments	26	0	— 37
PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,530)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 9	— 45
Automotive stores	.....	— 27	— 16
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 25	— 51
Drug stores	.....	— 3	— 15
Eating and drinking places	.....	— 27	+ 1
Filling stations	.....	+ 1	— 14
Food stores	.....	— 25	— 7
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	— 4	— 38
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	— 31	x
Postal receipts	$ 39,742	+ 10	— 51
Value of building permits	$ 153,421	— 33	+ 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 45,801	— 8	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 33,430	— 13	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.3	— 7	— 8
Employment (area)	78,570	x	— 1
Manufacturing employment (area)	26,375	+ 1	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	6.5	+ 48	+ 16
Air express shipments	77	— 38	— 55
RAYMONDVILLE: (pop. 9,136)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,668	— 4	— 45
Value of building permits	$ 2,250	— 88	+800
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,809	— 3	+ 22
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 7,890	— 15	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.2	+ 16	+ 24
SAN ANGELO: (pop. 52,093)			
Retail sales	.....	— 3	— 40
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 2	— 49
Postal receipts	$ 49,130	+ 5	— 37
Value of building permits	$ 410,658	+ 28	— 66
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 39,212	+ 3	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 45,772	— 14	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	+ 7	0
Employment	21,750	+ 3	— 2
Manufacturing employment	2,475	+ 14	— 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	375	+102	— 31
ROCKDALE: (pop. 2,321)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,094	+ 5	— 38
Value of building permits	$ 40,185	+106	— 85
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,928	+ 11	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,851	x	— 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.6	.....	+ 1
SAN MARCOS: (pop. 9,980)			
Postal receipts	$ 11,411	+ 7	— 34
Value of building permits	$ 53,111	+ 60	+ 77
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,684	— 11	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,241	+ 7	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.8	.....	— 9
SEGUIN: (pop. 9,733)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,358	+ 2	— 47
Value of building permits	$ 100,970	— 41	+474
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,630	+ 5	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 16,678	+ 6	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	4.7	— 2	— 8
SHERMAN: (pop. 20,150)			
Retail sales	.....	— 26	— 40
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 2	— 59
Postal receipts	$ 20,989	+ 1	— 50
Value of building permits	$ 135,540	+ 17	+ 33

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item		January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 408,442)				
Retail sales*			— 15	— 28
Apparel stores*			— 6	— 41
Automotive stores*			— 36	— 26
Department stores†			— 10	— 53
Drug stores*			— 17	x
Eating and drinking places*			— 10	+ 3
Filling stations*			— 4	— 15
Food stores*			— 10	— 16
Furniture and household appliance stores*			— 7	— 42
General merchandise stores*			— 11	— 52
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*			— 13	+ 2
Postal receipts	$	480,636	+ 4	— 41
Value of building permits	$	2,509,085	— 19	— 15
Bank debits (thousands)	$	381,159	— 3	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	307,165	— 24	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover		14.6	— 2	— 3
Employment		175,900	— 6	— 3
Manufacturing employment		19,625	— 6	— 2
Percent of labor force unemployed		2,119	— 6	— 16
SNYDER: (pop. 12,010)				
Postal receipts	$	9,028	+ 9	— 52
Value of building permits	$	46,800	— 84	— 48
Bank debits (thousands)	$	6,287	— 52	— 48
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	12,755	— 1	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		5.8		— 50
SWEETWATER: (pop. 13,619)				
Department and apparel store sales			— 6	— 69
Postal receipts	$	13,385	+ 13	— 44
Value of building permits	$	48,750	+ 36	+ 78
Bank debits (thousands)	$	10,053	+ 7	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	10,760	+ 4	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover		11.4	+ 7	— 2
Air express shipments		48	+118	+ 2
TAYLOR: (pop. 9,071)				
Retail sales			— 15	— 28
Postal receipts	$	8,263	+ 10	— 33
Value of building permits	$	44,175	— 37	+151
Bank debits (thousands)	$	10,118	— 2	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	15,868	+ 9	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.7	— 10	+ 3
TEMPLE: (pop. 25,467)				
Retail sales			— 19	— 38
Department and apparel stores			— 4	— 58
Postal receipts	$	28,106	+ 11	— 36
Value of building permits	$	53,705	— 56	— 18
Bank debits (thousands)	$	16,253	— 14	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	23,282	— 3	— 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.9	— 12	— 6
Air express shipments		88	+ 49	— 17
TYLER: (pop. 38,698)				
Retail sales			— 28	— 51
Department and apparel stores			— 5	— 62
Postal receipts	$	58,499	+ 3	— 33
Value of building permits	$	475,305	— 9	+ 51
Bank debits (thousands)	$	58,954	— 3	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	56,911	— 2	— 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		12.1	— 12	— 1
Air express shipments		211	+ 9	— 58

City and item		January 1954	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Jan 1953	Percent change: Jan 1954 from Dec 1953
TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,620)				
Retail sales			— 31	— 21
Department and apparel stores			+ 6	— 55
Postal receipts	$	14,382	— 1	— 47
Value of building permits	$	577,805	+ 52	+ 81
Bank debits (thousands)	$	26,025	— 4	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	26,242	— 4	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		11.9	+ 4	— 6
Employment (area)		45,300	— 6	— 2
Manufacturing employment (area)		11,100	— 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)		5.7	+ 68	+ 39
TEXARKANA: (pop. 40,628)§				
Retail sales§			— 19	— 30
Department and apparel stores§			— 2	— 59
Postal receipts§	$	51,356	— 20	— 38
Value of building permits§	$	56,230	— 15	— 12
Bank debits (thousands)§	$	38,022	— 4	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	18,310	— 32	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		11.9	+ 1	— 2
Employment§		37,650	— 12	— 2
Manufacturing employment§		8,010	— 14	— 5
Percent of labor force unemployed§		10.0	+100	+ 25
Air express shipments§		236	+345	— 5
WACO: (pop. 87,706)				
Retail sales			— 5	— 31
Apparel stores			— 14	— 49
Automotive stores			x	— 3
Department stores†			— 14	— 61
Furniture and household appliance stores			— 4	— 22
Postal receipts	$	107,067	+ 3	— 36
Value of building permits	$	1,267,275	+120	— 7
Bank debits (thousands)	$	75,884	x	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	64,809	— 29	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover		13.6	— 10	— 6
Employment		42,750	— 3	— 3
Manufacturing employment		7,875	— 6	x
Percent of labor force unemployed		8.6	+110	+ 23
Air express shipments		263	+ 41	— 22
WAXAHACHIE: (pop. 11,204)				
Postal receipts	$	8,301	— 47	— 45
Value of building permits	$	199,825	+368	+489
Bank debits (thousands)	$	3,659	— 6	— 45
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	5,573	+ 49	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.6	— 33	— 36
WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 68,042)				
Retail sales			+ 4	— 27
Department and apparel stores			+ 4	— 45
Postal receipts	$	79,789	— 5	— 41
Value of building permits	$	374,116	— 36	— 25
Bank debits (thousands)	$	81,613	— 9	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$	102,873	— 5	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.5	— 14	— 9
Employment		34,800	— 5	— 3
Manufacturing employment		3,480	— 8	— 3
Percent of labor force unemployed		5.8	+ 16	+ 12
Air express shipments		641	+227	— 23

x Change is less than one half of one percent.
*Preliminary.
†Reported by the Federal Reserve Board of Dallas.
‡Excludes deposits to credit of banks.
§Figures include Texarakan, Arkansas (pop. 15,875) and Texarakana, Texas (pop. 24,753).

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	Jan 1954	Dec 1953	Nov 1953	Oct 1953	Jan 1953
GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY					
†Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0)	136*	142*	140*	142	150
Index of bank debits	164	163	158	165	164
Income payments to individuals in the U.S. (billions—seasonally adjusted)	----	$ 284.7	$ 285.9	$ 287.2	$ 280.5
Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (unadjusted)	110.8	110.1	109.8	110.2	109.9
Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (unadjusted)	115.2	114.9	115.0	115.4	113.9
Index of postal receipts	155	180	172	170	153
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District (10.0)	95	86	95	103	102
Business corporation charters issued (number)	303	273	244	282	340
Business failures (number)	12	24	12	12	8
Index of ordinary life insurance sales (adjusted for price changes)	159	174	184	162	162
Index of ordinary life insurance sales	183	200	212	187	184
Index of life insurance sales in the West South Central states	167	173	192	181	165
Index of life insurance sales in the United States	150	169	164	160	146
TRADE					
†Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes, 51.0)	124*	134*	129	133	146
Index of total retail sales	139*	150*	144	150	163
Durable-goods stores	153	159	160	159	191
Nondurable-goods stores	132	146	136	145	149
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	63.5	58.9	63.5	65.5	63.4
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	42.0	39.8	39.0	39.2	42.7
PRODUCTION					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.6)	226	232	232	224	225
†Index of crude runs to stills (3.9)	124	118	123	123	133
Index of wheat grindings	----	65	64	70	67
Index of cottonseed crushed	----	122	114	117	119
Index of southern pine production (1935–39=100, unadjusted)	----	109	113	129	129
Index of dairy product manufacturing	----	77	62	58	88
†Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes, 9.4)	99*	98*	114*	100*	119
Index of urban building permits	128*	127*	147*	129*	147
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.1)	119	120	118	120	130
Index of gasoline consumption	----	185	170	163	196
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)	208	216	214	224	200
Index of industrial production in the U.S.	125*	127*	129	132	134
Index of cement production	----	104	144	144	149
Construction contracts awarded (thousands)	$ 85,815	$104,755	$103,546	$ 99,646	$ 88,081
AGRICULTURE					
Index of farm cash income (unadjusted)	85	121	156	166	86
Index of prices received by farmers (1909–14=100, unadjusted)	267	263	259	259	291
Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index—unadjusted, 1910–14=100)	----	278	277	276	282
Parity ratio	----	95	94	94	103
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted, 1909–14=100)	305	296	283	274	339
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted, 1909–14=100)	238	237	242	247	255
FINANCE					
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 1,909	$ 1,905	$ 1,875	$ 1,831	$ 1,756
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 3,372	$ 3,377	$ 3,385	$ 3,244	$ 3,158
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 2,545	$ 2,623	$ 2,519	$ 2,538	$ 2,533
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)	$ 5,903	$ 6,422	$ 5,326	$ 5,775	$ 5,948
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)	$ 53,239	$ 97,247	$ 63,356	$ 67,550	$ 54,444
Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands)	$207,860	$ 69,339	$176,905	$101,174	$275,449
LABOR					
Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)	2,218.2	2,277.9	2,251.8	2,247.7	2,221.4
Total manufacturing employment (thousands)	428.5	429.4	434.5	434.0	434.6
Durable-goods employment (thousands)	201.5	200.6	202.9	205.5	206.7
Nondurable-goods employment (thousands)	227.0	228.8	231.6	228.5	227.9

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1947–49 except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation (except annual indexes).

Manufacturing employment estimates have been adjusted to first quarter 1953 benchmarks.

*Preliminary.

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡Index computed for February, May, August, and November only.